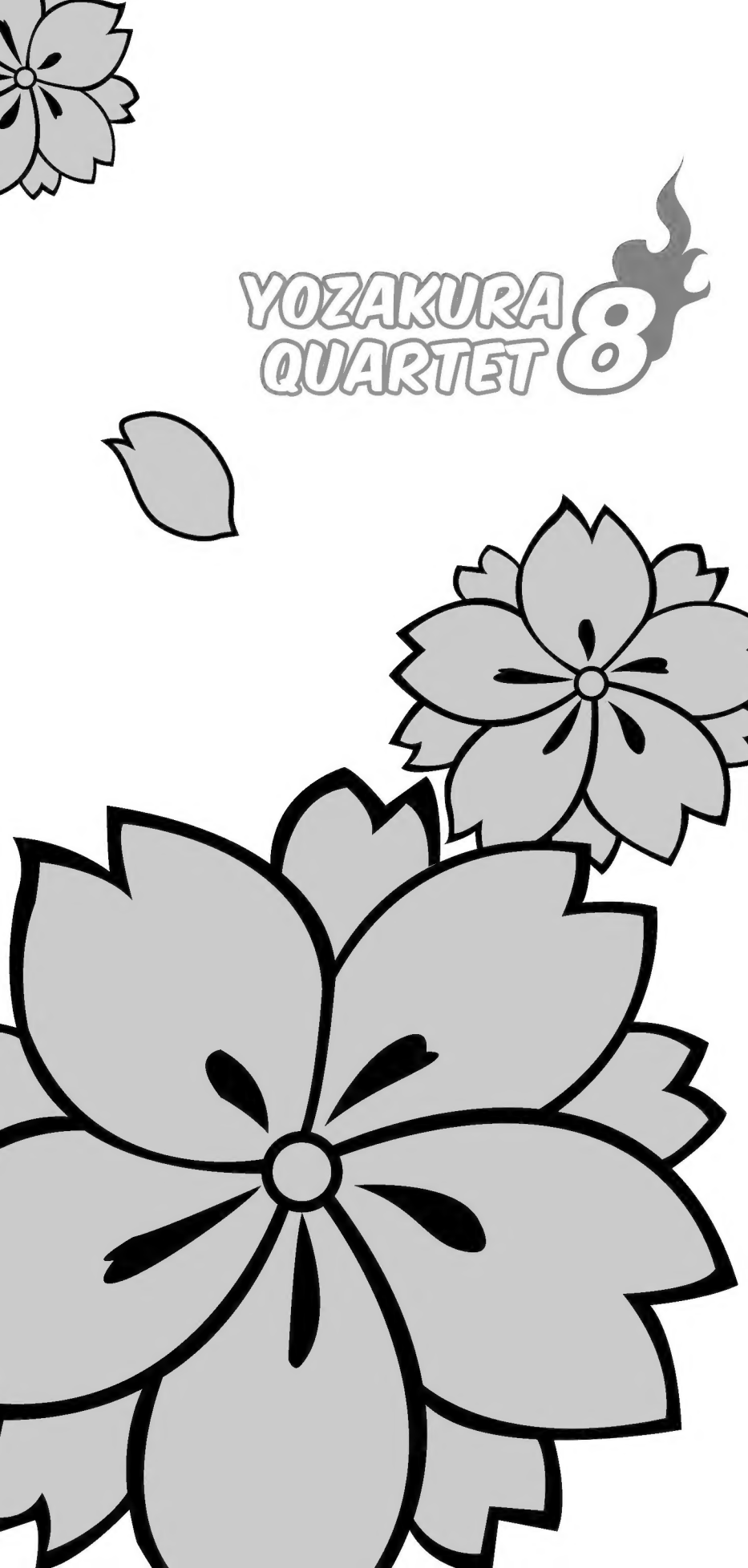
Yozakura Quartet
8
Suzuhito Yasuda


YOZAKURA
QUARTET
8

RAMBUNCTIOUS HIGH SCHOOLER AND MAYOR OF SAKURASHIN TOWN. LATELY SHE'S STARTED LEARNING TO COOK, SO SHE'S BECOMING FULLY SELF-SUFFICIENT! APPARENTLY, SHE STILL LOVES AKINA'S HANDMADE RICE BALLS THE MOST, THOUGH.

HIME YARIZAKURA

THE DIRECTOR OF HIIZUMI LIFE COUNSELING OFFICE. WHEN HE'S NOT WORKING, HE'S MAKING FOOD FOR HIME AND HIS EMPLOYEES, SO HE'S OFTEN IN THE OFFICE VERY LATE.

AKINA HIIZUMI

Quartet of cherry blossoms in the night

YOZAKURA QUARTET

CHARACTER PROFILE

AO NANAMI

AN EMPLOYEE OF THE HIIZUMI LIFE COUNSELING OFFICE. SHE'S AS MUCH OF A RICE FREAK AS HIME IS A NOODLE FREAK. SHE'S CONSTANTLY ARGUING WITH HER ABOUT WHICH IS BETTER.

KOTOHA ISONE

A PART-TIME WORKER AT THE HIIZUMI LIFE COUNSELING OFFICE. SHE WEARS GLASSES, IS INTO GIRLS, AND HAS BIG BOOBS, AMONG OTHER CLICHÉS, BUT SHE ALSO HAS THE MOST REFRESHING PERSONALITY.

KYOSUKE KISHI

HIME'S ASSISTANT AND OVERSEER (BABYSITTER). HE HAS TO TAKE CARE OF BOTH HIME AND TOUKA, SO HIS DAYS ARE FILLED WITH STRESS.

TOUKA KISHI

KYOSUKE'S YOUNGER SISTER AND AN OGRE. THAT SAID, SHE LEADS THE MOST NORMAL LIFE. SHE RECENTLY CHANGED HER HAIRSTYLE A LITTLE.

YAE SHINATSUHIKO

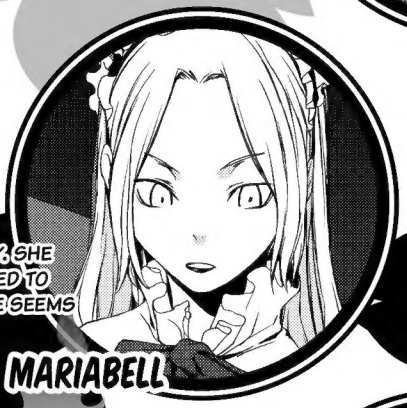
THE LAND GOD OF SAKURASHIN TOWN. SHE IS OFTEN SEEN WANDERING THE STREETS.

YUHI SHINATSUHIKO

THE DISTRICT MAYOR WHO COORDINATES THE TOWNS. HE IS ALSO A LAND GOD. DEEP DOWN, HE IS A PERVERTED OLD MAN.

JURI

A DEMON DOCTOR AND TOWN ICON. SHE HAS BEEN ABSTAINING FROM SHOW BUSINESS LATELY.



MARIABELL

YUHI'S SECRETARY. SHE IS ALWAYS ORDERED TO COSPLAY, BUT SHE SEEMS TO ENJOY IT.

SHIDOU MIZUKI

HE IS A COP, BUT EVERYONE TENDS TO FORGET THAT FACT. HE IS BUSY WATCHING OVER MINA AND KANA.

RIN AZUMA

A JIANGSHI WHO WORKS AT A RAMEN RESTAURANT. IT LOOKS LIKE SHE DOESN'T WORK MUCH, BUT SHE DOES.

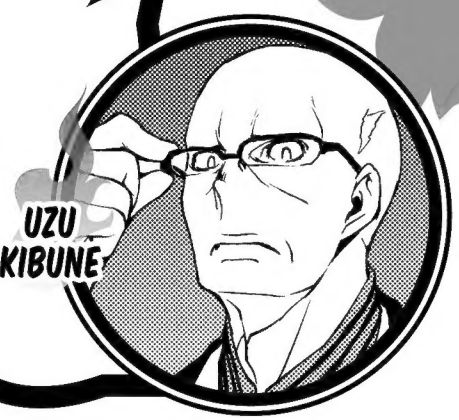
KANA TATEBAYASHI

MINA TATEBAYASHI

TWINS WHO ARE MERMAID-VAMPIRE HYBRIDS. THEY GROW WHEN THEY IMMERSE THEMSELVES IN WATER.

RIN'S FORMER MASTER AND A NECROMANCER, SHE ATTACKED SAKURASHIN TOWN IN ORDER TO TAKE BACK RIN BUT WAS THWARTED AND REFORMED.

A DESCENDANT OF ENYOU HIIZUMI. HE TOOK OVER THE BODY OF GIN, AO'S OLDER BROTHER, AND HE IS PLANNING TO MAKE THE SEVEN PILLARS BLOOM IN ORDER TO MERGE THE TWO DIMENSIONS.



SENATE

OUTLINE

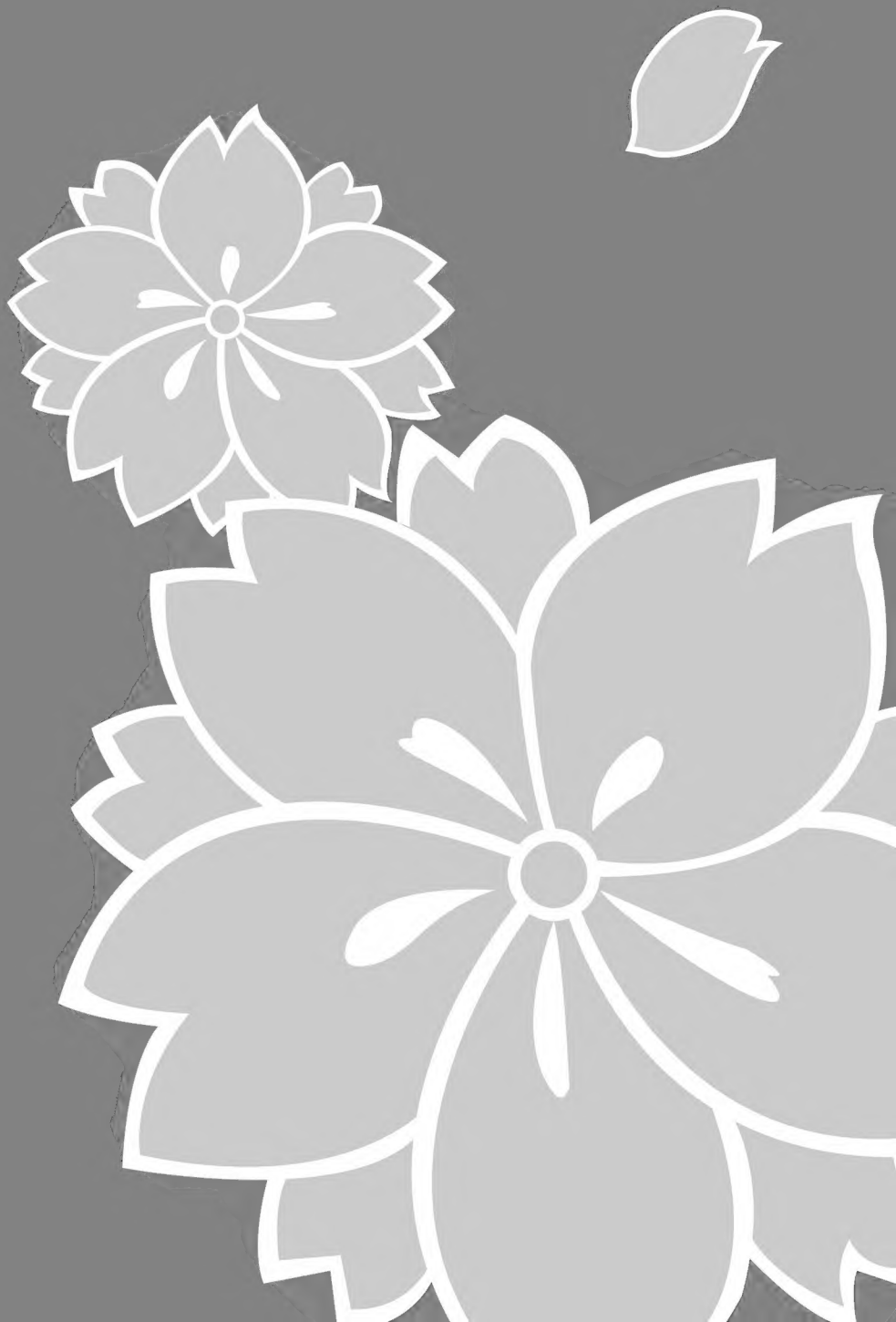
OUTLINE: WITH THE STORY ARC FROM THE PAST ALL WRAPPED UP, WE'RE BACK IN THE PRESENT WITH AN EVERYDAY STORY THAT'S LONG OVERDUE. YOU MIGHT BE SURPRISED TO SEE WHAT KIND OF GIRL ZAKURO-CHAN REALLY IS...

YOZAKURA QUARTET

8

CONTENTS

007 ONE OF SIX (PART 1)
041 ONE OF SIX (PART 2)
073 ONE OF SIX (PART 3)
111 ONE OF SIX (EPILOGUE)
143 SONG OF FLOWERS (PART 1)
178 EXTRAS



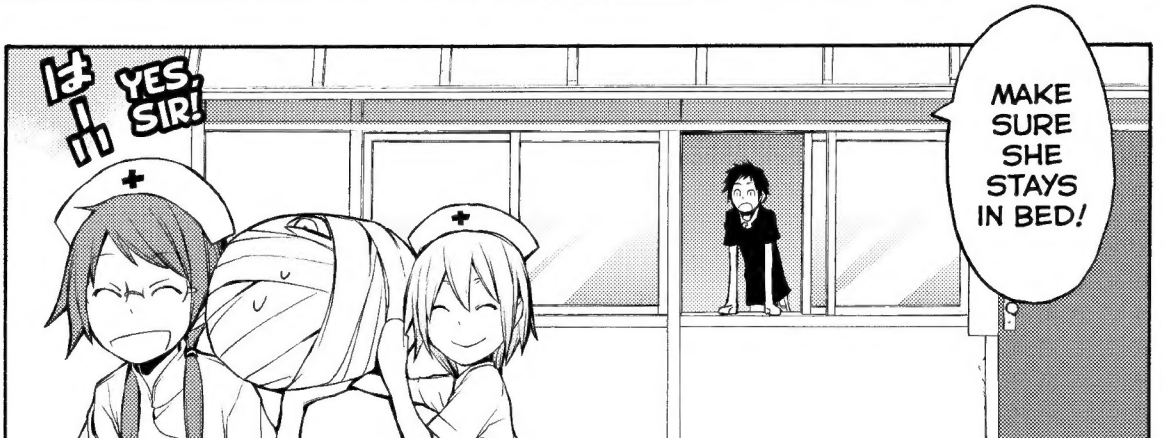
FACSIMILE!

I THINK I MIGHT'VE COME DOWN WITH SOMETHING AFTER THE STUFF WITH ZAKURO.
SNIFF

FACSIMILE!
FAX?
UH...
WAS THAT A SNEEZE?

WHUD
THUD
WAH
WAH

FABRIC!!
SHOOT, I GOTTA GO.
IT'S TIME FOR MY PATROL...
NURSE!
YEAH, NO. NOT IN YOUR CONDITION.
YES, SIR!
VWIP


YES, SIR!
MAKE SURE SHE STAYS IN BED!

KOTO-HA, AO! WHAT'RE YOU UP TO?
A SURF-BOARD
THEY'RE CARRY-ING SOME-THING.
HUH?
WHAT'S THAT?
OH, GOOD TIMING. TOUKA, CAN I BORROW YOUR KEY?
HUH? OH, SURE.
IT LOOKS LIKE HIME'S A BIT SICK, SO...
WE'RE TAKING HER HOME.
I'LL COME OVER AFTER I STOP BY THE OFFICE.
THANKS!
WOW, HOW RARE.
HERE.
WE'LL HELP!

SHE'S BEEN SO BUSY LATELY.
SHE OUGHT TO REST MORE.
INDEED.
BUT ...

ARE YOU SURE, ONII-CHAN?
CAN YOU REALLY BE FRIENDLY WITH ALL THE TOWNSPEOPLE?
HOW RUDE.

WHAT ABOUT THE PATROL?
SHOULD I GO?
NO, I'LL GO.

OKAY, ALL DONE! LET'S GO!
PAFT
?

ONII-CHAN, GIMME YOUR PHONE!
I KNOW!
HEY, STOP!
WHO ARE YOU TEXTING?
SOME HELP!
MOOSH
TAKKA
TAKKA

DING

KYOSUKE, DID YOU CHANGE YOUR RE-STRAINT?
HM? OH.
YEAH, A LONG TIME AGO.
I HAD YAE-SAN TUNE IT.
WITH THIS, I CAN STAY IN TOP FORM WITHOUT GOING BESERK.
WHUD ゴゴゴ
CLUNK ガシャ…

WELL ...
40TH NIGHT ONE OF SIX (PART ONE)
THANK YOU.
THIS RESTRAINT IS BASICALLY DISPOSABLE. I'LL MAKE YOU A NEW ONE.
A NEW ONE, HUH?
ONII-CHAN, WHY DON'T YOU TRY GOING WITHOUT A RESTRAINT, TOO?
DON'T BE SILLY! THAT'S TOO DAN-GER-OUS!
"TOO"?
WAIT, TOU-KA...
YEP. I STOPPED USING ONE THIS WEEK.

I...
...DON'T BE SILLY.
SO WHY DON'T YOU...
YUP.
IT SEEMS TOUKA-CHAN CAN COMPLETELY CONTROL HER POWER NOW.
I COULDN'T ...
OH, VERY WELL.
MY POWER NEVER WENT OUT OF CONTROL ...
THAT YOU JUST BROKE.
HEY.
HOW WELL DID THIS RE-STRAINT WORK?

ALL RIGHT.
IT'LL BE DONE BY TOMOR-ROW.
OH, RIGHT.
...I SEE.
GIVE THIS TO HIME-CHAN.
SHE'S SICK, RIGHT?
THANKS!
JURI-SAN'S SPECIAL BLEND OF MEDI-CINE, HUH?
SOUNDS POTENT!
NAW.
IT'S JUST WHEAT FLOUR.
GONG
FLOUR ?!
JUST TELL HER IT'S MEDI-CINE...
...AND SHE SHOULD FEEL BETTER AFTER TAKING IT.
A PLACEBO EFFECT, HUH?
YUP!
THIS SHOULD BE BETTER THAN REAL MEDICINE FOR HIME-CHAN.
HUH ...

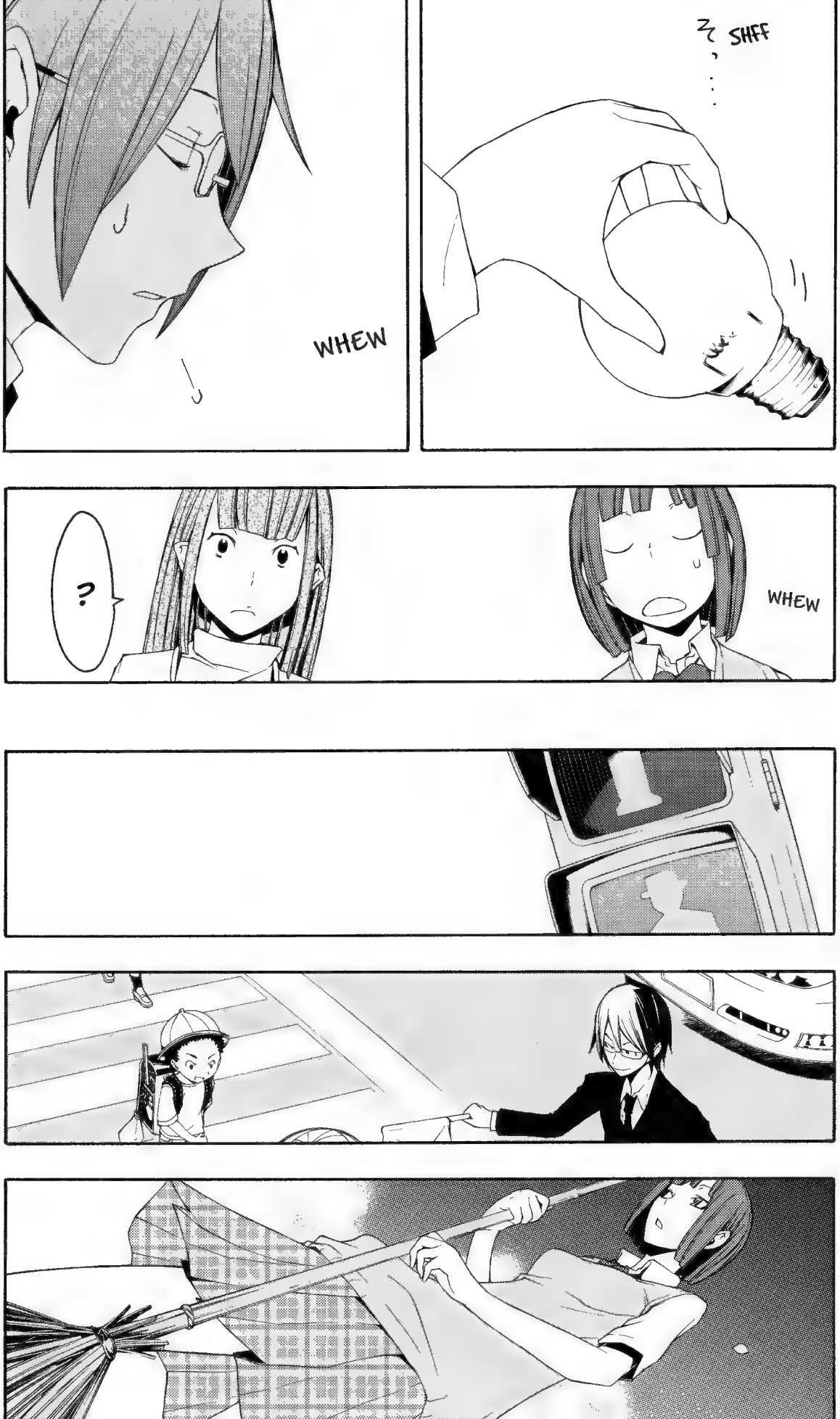
HIME-CHAN'S OUT OF COMMIS-SION, SO YOU'LL HAVE TO DO IT.
HUH?
NOW, GO OUT ON PATROL
OKAY.

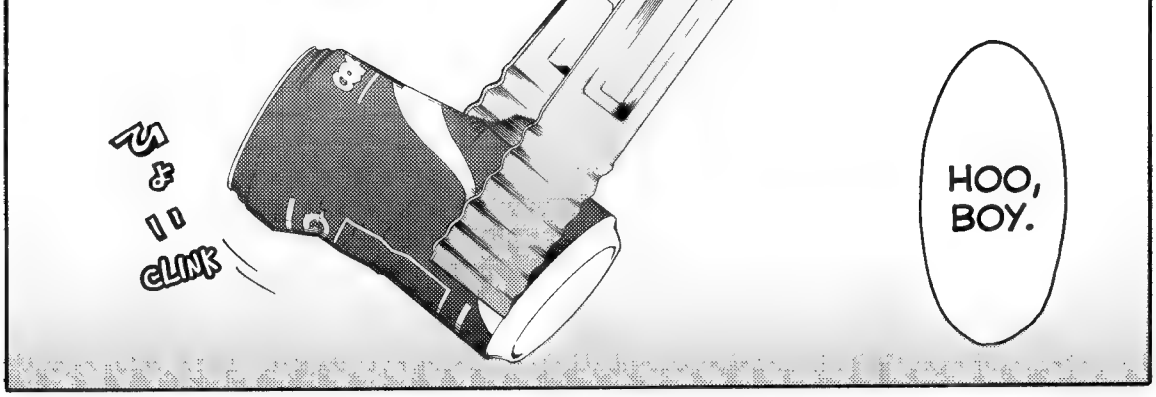
...

SO ...
TROT
TROT
TROT

WHY ARE YOU TAGGING ALONG?
'CAUSE I CARE.
I'M WATCH-ING OVER YOU.
...
ARE YOU THAT WOR-RIED ABOUT IT?
...MM.
IT'LL BE FINE.
JUST RELAX.

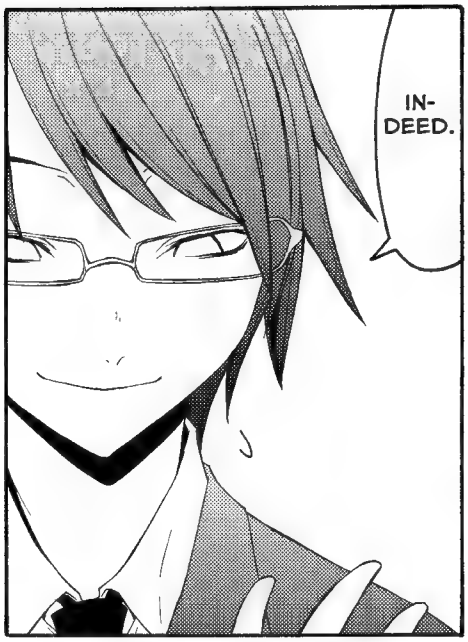
STILL, I CAN'T ...
LOOK!
COME ON!
SHE'S IN A BIND!
GO, GO!
TUG
MM GH.
OH, KYO-CHAN! TOUKA-CHAN!
HI!
CHANG-ING A LIGHT-BULB?
GO ON, THEN!
GO ON!
HERE YA GO!
R-RIGHT ...
SHFF
...


WHEW
SHFF
?
WHEW


HOO, BOY.
ちょい
CLINK

SEE, ONII-CHAN?
YOU HAVE CON-TROL.

HIME-CHAN DOES THIS EVERY DAY?
SHE SURE WORKS HARD.
IN-DEED.


IN-DEED.

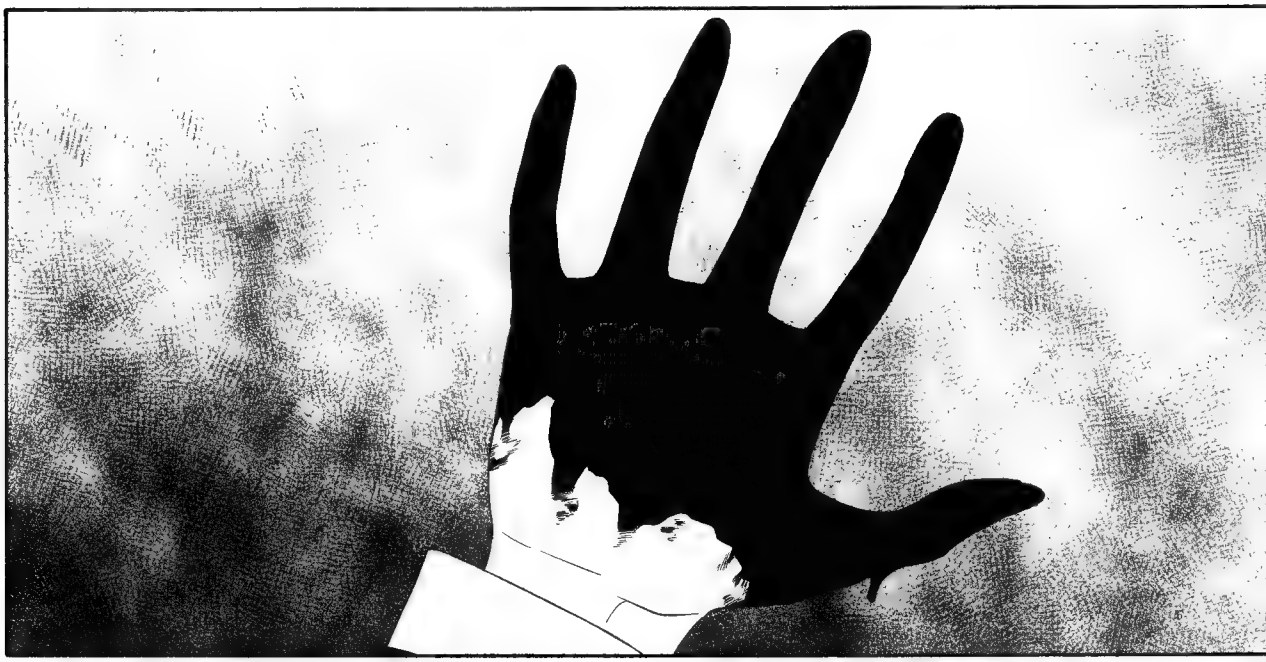
THANKS, YOU TWO.
TAKE THESE.
ほい
TOSS

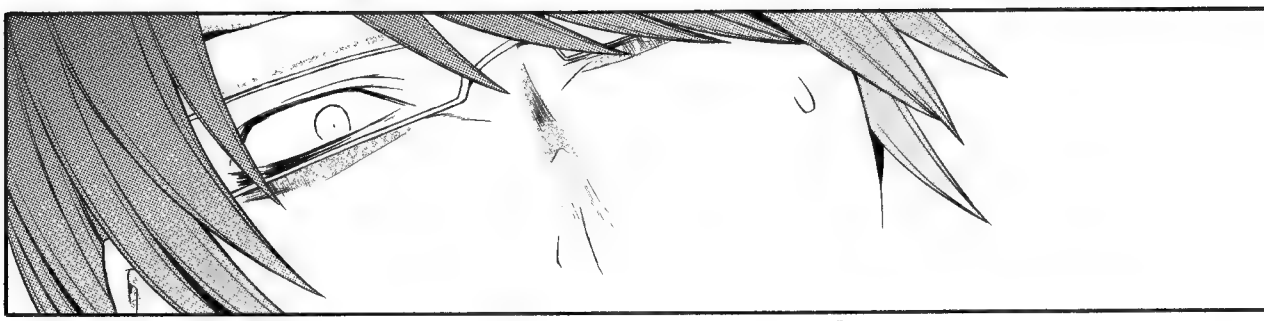
YAY!
THANK YOU...
HUP
JOLT
HEY!
LOOK OUT
...
SPLATCH

ポタッ
PLIP
OH...

OH, A BABY!
THANK YOU!
THANKS FOR YOUR HELP.
USE THIS.
OH, NO RE-STRAINT?
THEN IT CAN'T BE HELPED.
...
HERE.
HE'S SO CUTE!
THANK YOU.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO HOLD HIM?
GOO GOO!
MAY I?
I COULD JUST EAT YOU UP!
GOO GOO GOO!

ISN'T HE CUTE, ONII-CHAN?
YOU CAN HOLD HIM, TOO, KYO-CHAN.
OH ...





WAUGH!
VWIP

CRACK
OW!
PACK
SPACK
HUG

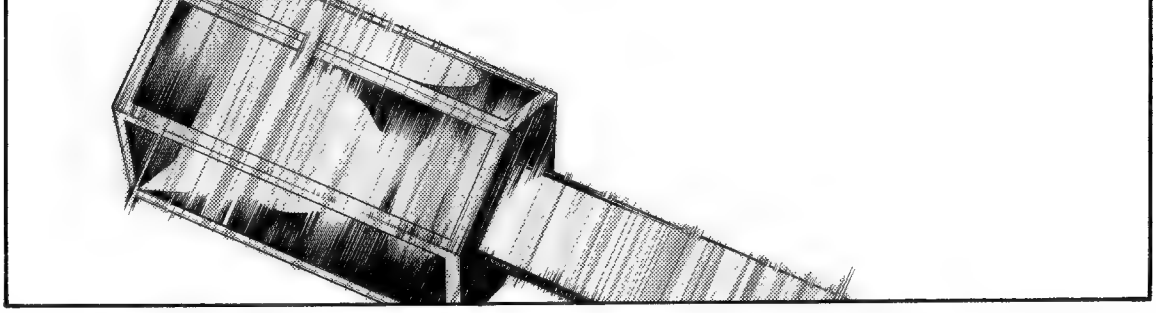
ARE YOU OKAY ?!
Y-YEAH.

ONII-CHAN!
だっ
DASH

...

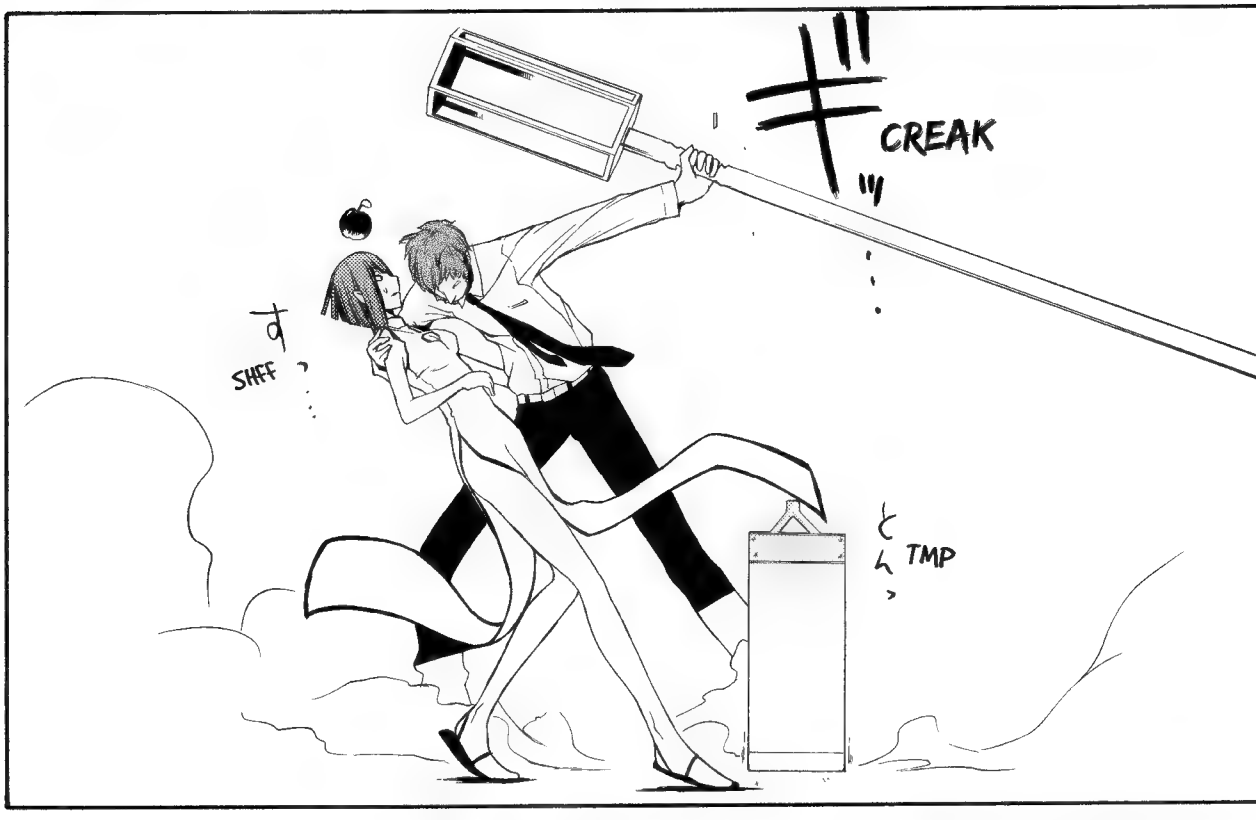
HUFF!
たっ
TAK
たっ
TAK
HUFF!

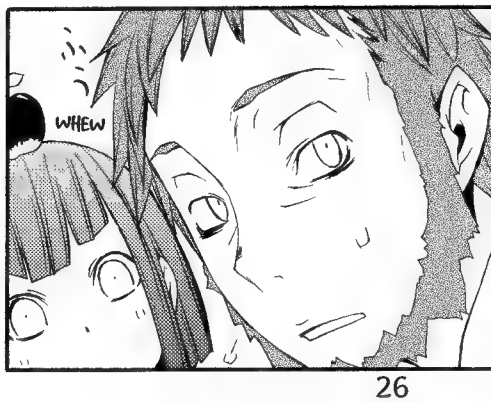
HUFF...
...
THIS POWER IS NOTHING...
...BUT TROUBLE.
DAMN IT!
WHAM
WHOA!
MAN, THAT SCARED ME.
SHIDOUSAN!
AND ZAKURO...
ゆらっ
CREAK



CLANG

WHFF


CREAK
SHFF
TMP


WHEW

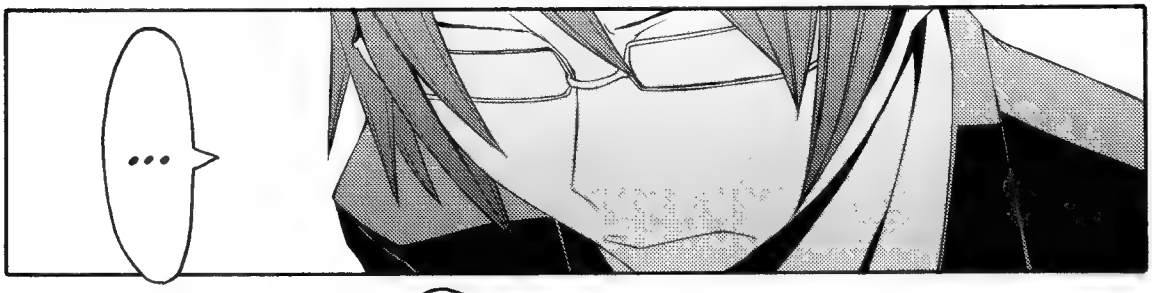
...
WELL, NOW.
YEAH ...
IT'S UNDER-STAND-ABLE.
...
IS IT SO...
I WAS THE SAME WAY.
WHAT?
IT'S HARD ...
...TO CONTROL POWER.
コキ KRIK ...

SHI-DOU-SAN, HOW DID YOU, UM...
...LEARN TO CON-TROL IT?
HMM... I DON'T BELIEVE MY METH-OD'S THE BEST.
EVERY-ONE IS DIFFER-ENT.
EVEN SO—
...
SEE, I...
GRIP
キュッ
...BECAME INCREDIBLY STRONG.
WHAT?
TRAINED.
TEM-PERED.
AND THO-ROUGHLY POLISHED.
KRIK
I GREW UNTIL I WAS STRONG ENOUGH TO CONQUER ANYTHING.

OPEN
AND WITH THAT INCREDIBLE POWER...
...
...I KEPT MY ABILITY ...
...TO HURT PEOPLE IN CHECK.
...!
THEY'RE JUST APPLIED DIFFERENTLY.
YOU'LL BE FINE AS LONG AS YOU REMEMBER THAT.
...ARE THE SAME.
THE POWER TO HURT AND THE POWER TO PROTECT ...

THERE ARE SOME THINGS WE ARE TOO WEAK TO STOP. THAT'S REALITY.
SO ...
...THERE'S NO REASON TO VIEW STRENGTH AS A NEGATIVE.

IN MY OPINION, IT'S A GOOD THING TO BE BORN WITH SUCH POWER.
THE POW-ER TO PRO-TECT ...


...

WAU GH!
ズコッ SLIP

COME BACK AND APOLO-GIZE FOR BREAKING THE WALL!
THERE YOU ARE! ONII-CHAN!
もて TP
もて TP

GUESS THAT DIDN'T HELP.
もて TP TP もて

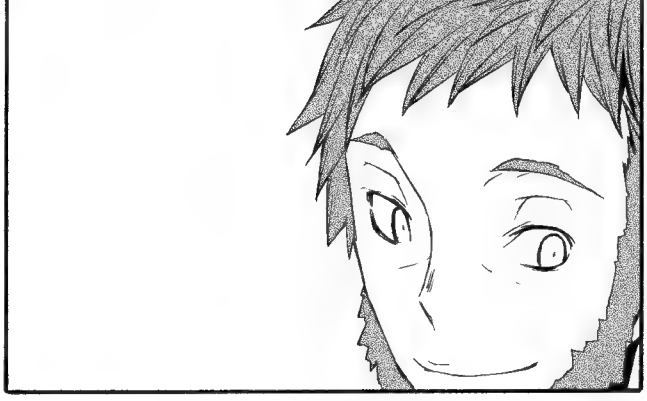
!
ばっ
VWIP

SQUEEZE
ギュッ
GRAB
ガシッ
GUH!
MMGH!
CRICK
めきっ
!
S-SORRY...
!
GRAB
ガシッ
SQUEEZE
ギュッ
CRICK
めきっ

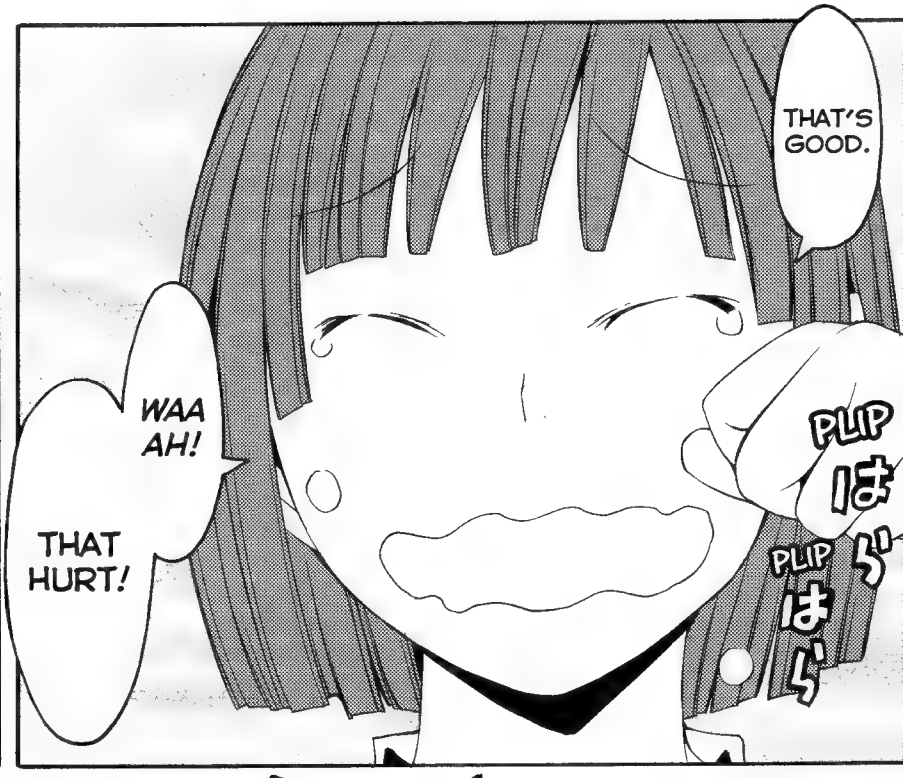
...
めき
CRICK
めき
CRICK
WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING, TOUKA? LET GO!
I CAN'T CON-TROL ...
めき
CRICK
IT'S OKAY. I'M NOT WOR-RIED.
めき
CRICK
YOU'RE KIND AND GENTLE, ONII-CHAN.
YOU COULD NEVER HURT ME.
COULD YOU?
PHEW...

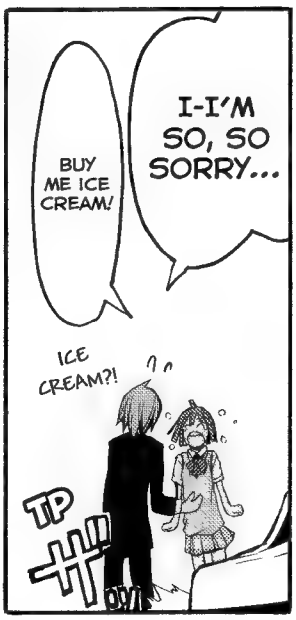
SHFF
SQUEEZE
SEE?
YOU ARE GENTLE.
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO ...
...IS SHARE THAT WITH EVERY-ONE ELSE.
GET IT?

HEE HEE!
SNIFF
I'M SORRY. OKAY. I'LL GO APOLO-GIZE.



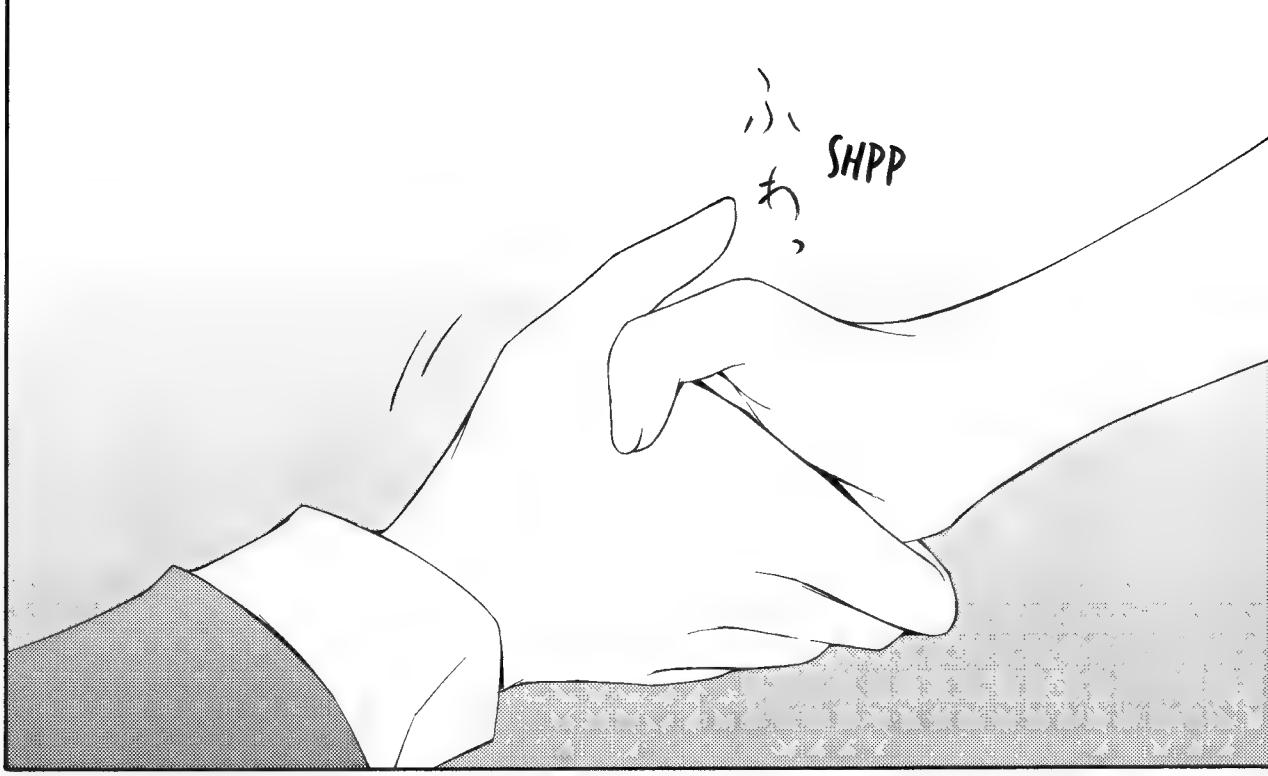
I-I'M SOR-RY.

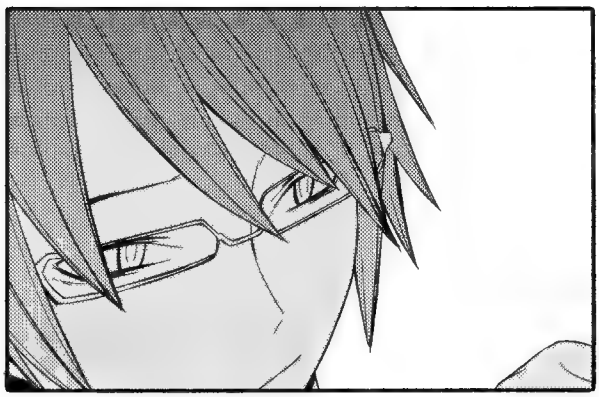

THAT'S GOOD.
PLIP
PLIP
WAA AH!
THAT HURT!

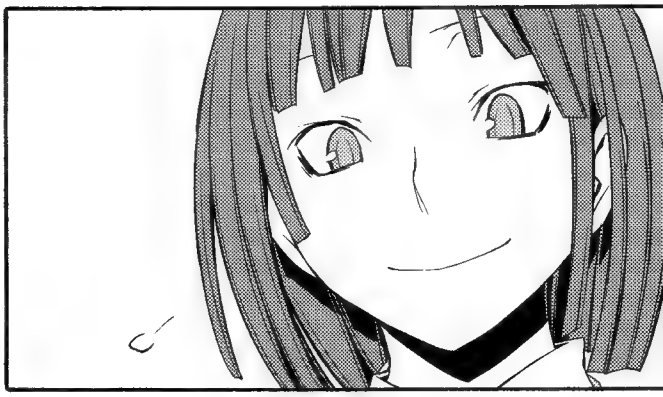

I-I'M SO, SO SORRY...
BUY ME ICE CREAM!
ICE CREAM?!
TP

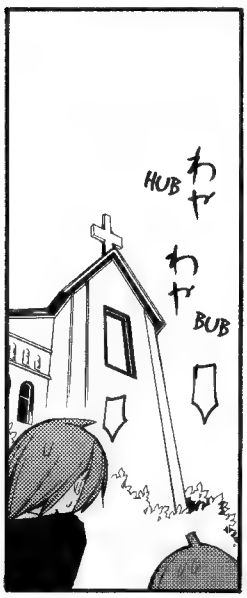
JUDGE-MENT!
WHAM
GWAH!

ROLL
ROLL
ROLL
BAM
OH...
KO-HIME-CHAN!
AND MORINO-SAN... AND SHINO-ZUKA-SAN!
HOW DARE YOU MAKE A LADY CRY?
BAM
NOW SHE'S DONE IT.
YES, INDEED.
OH!
DON'T WORRY, KOHIME-CHAN. THESE ARE CROC-ODILE TEARS!
WHAT?!
I SEE. FOR-GIVE ME!
I AM TRULY SOR-RY, SIR.
SHFF
...
TWIK
AH...
SHFF


SHPP





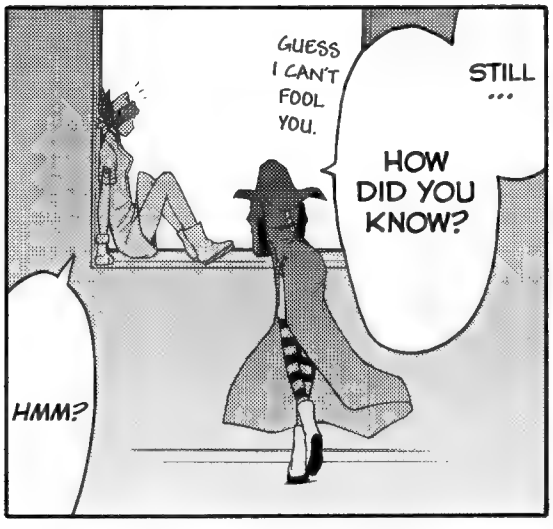

HUB
わや
わや
BUB

DON'T GIVE ME THAT LOOK LIKE YOU FORGOT THIS WHOLE TIME!
OH! TOUKA, YOU DID THIS?
HUH? I TEXTED YOU?

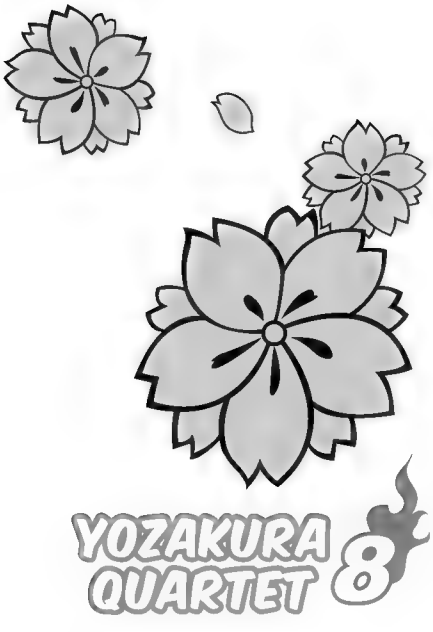
WHAT ARE YOU THREE DOING IN SAKURA-SHIN?
WHAT?
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO TEXT-ED ME, ASKING FOR HELP WITH THE PATROLS.
immachi Station
北口

HEE HEE HEE!
WHAT?
ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL, I GUESS.
YEAH.
NO NEED FOR THE RE-STRAINT NOW.
IT'S JUST A TOY ...
...ISN'T IT?
A PLACEBO EFFECT.
はむ
OM
YOU KNEW, HUH?
YOU'RE RIGHT.
I DIDN'T IMBUE THEM WITH ANY POWER.
THEY'RE JUST A PLACEBO.
WHEN YOU'RE AS STRONG AS KYO-CHIN, IT'S ALL ABOUT YOUR STATE OF MIND.

YEAH, TO CONTROL POWER ...
...ONE NEEDS A KEY, NOT A RESTRAINT.
AND YUP. FOR KYOCHIN, THAT KEY IS...


GUESS I CAN'T FOOL YOU.
STILL ...
HOW DID YOU KNOW?
HMM?

WHERE'D YOU BUY THIS TOY?
UH, Y'KNOW ...
IT SAYS "MADE IN JAPAN" ON IT.
WHAT ?!
YOU'RE KIDDING!


YOZAKURA
QUARTET
8

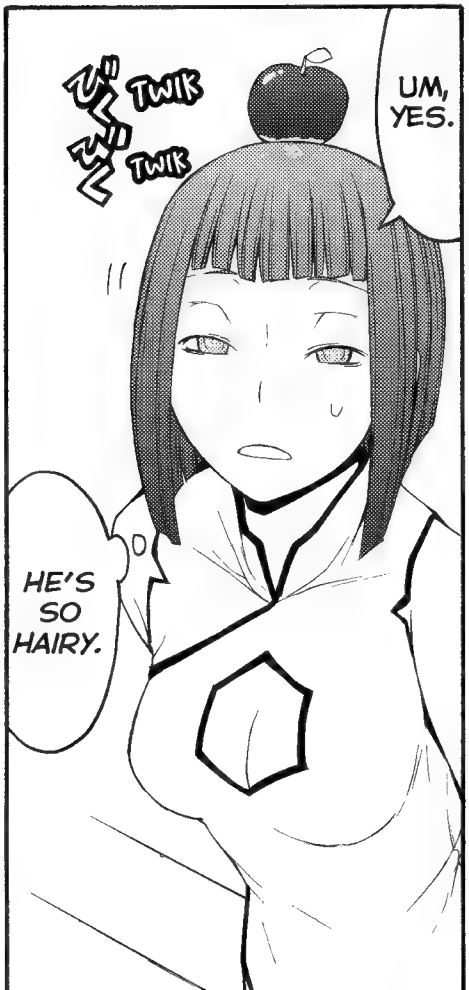
YUM!

TP TP
HMM...
HUB BUB
HUB BUB
I THINK I'M LOST.
TP
TP
I'M JUST NO GOOD WITH MAPS...
HUB BUB
HUB BUB
UGH...
THEY'RE ALL STARING...

GLOOM
ARE THE PEOPLE OF THIS TOWN HARD ON NEWCOMERS?
MMGH.
I WANT TO CRAWL INTO A HOLE...
TP
TP

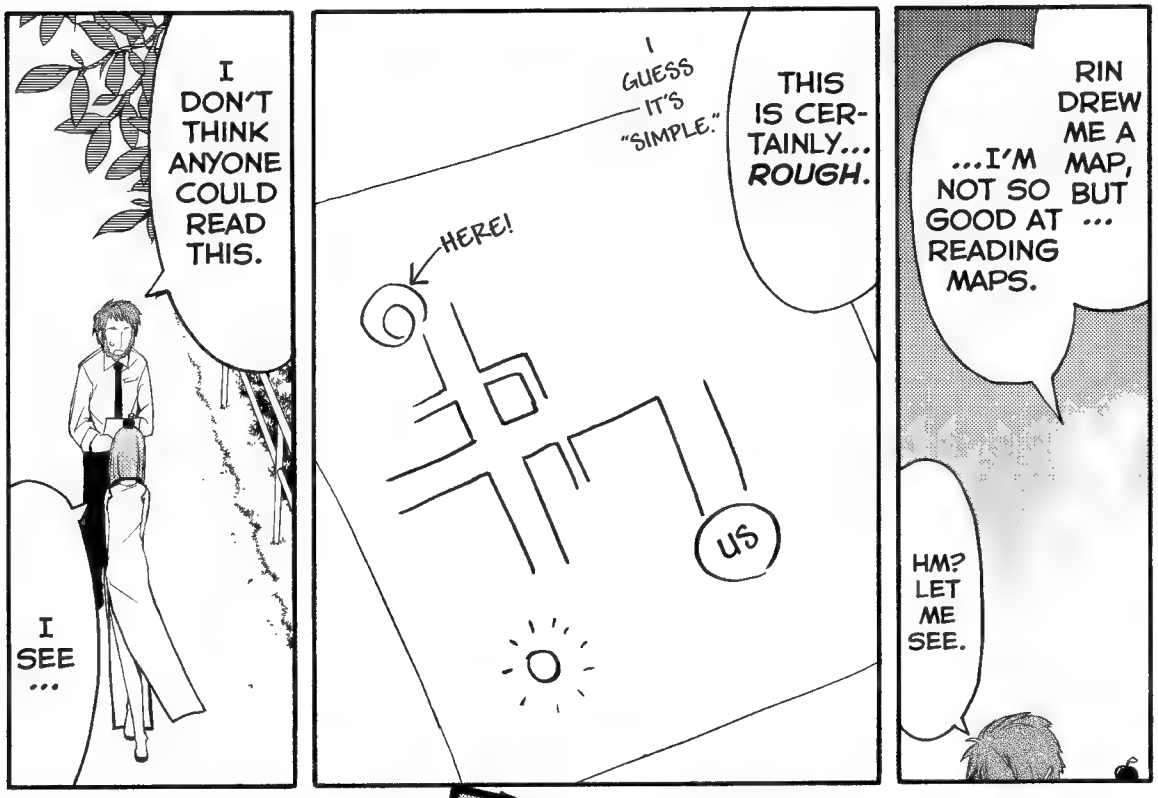
OH?
I WONDER IF I'M GAINING THEIR TRUST...

HAIRY...
OH, SORRY.
FLUFFY...
RUSTLE


TWIK
TWIK
UM, YES.
HE'S SO HAIRY.

HEY.
THE NEWCOMER... ZAKURO-SAN, WAS IT?

SO, ON A DELIV-ERY?
YES, TO HIME-SAN'S HOUSE.
UH, NOTH-ING.
STARE じぃ〜
YES?
?
MY NAME'S SHIDOU. I'M A POLICE OFFICER.
HIME-CHAN TOLD ME ABOUT YOU.
OH... NICE TO MEET YOU.

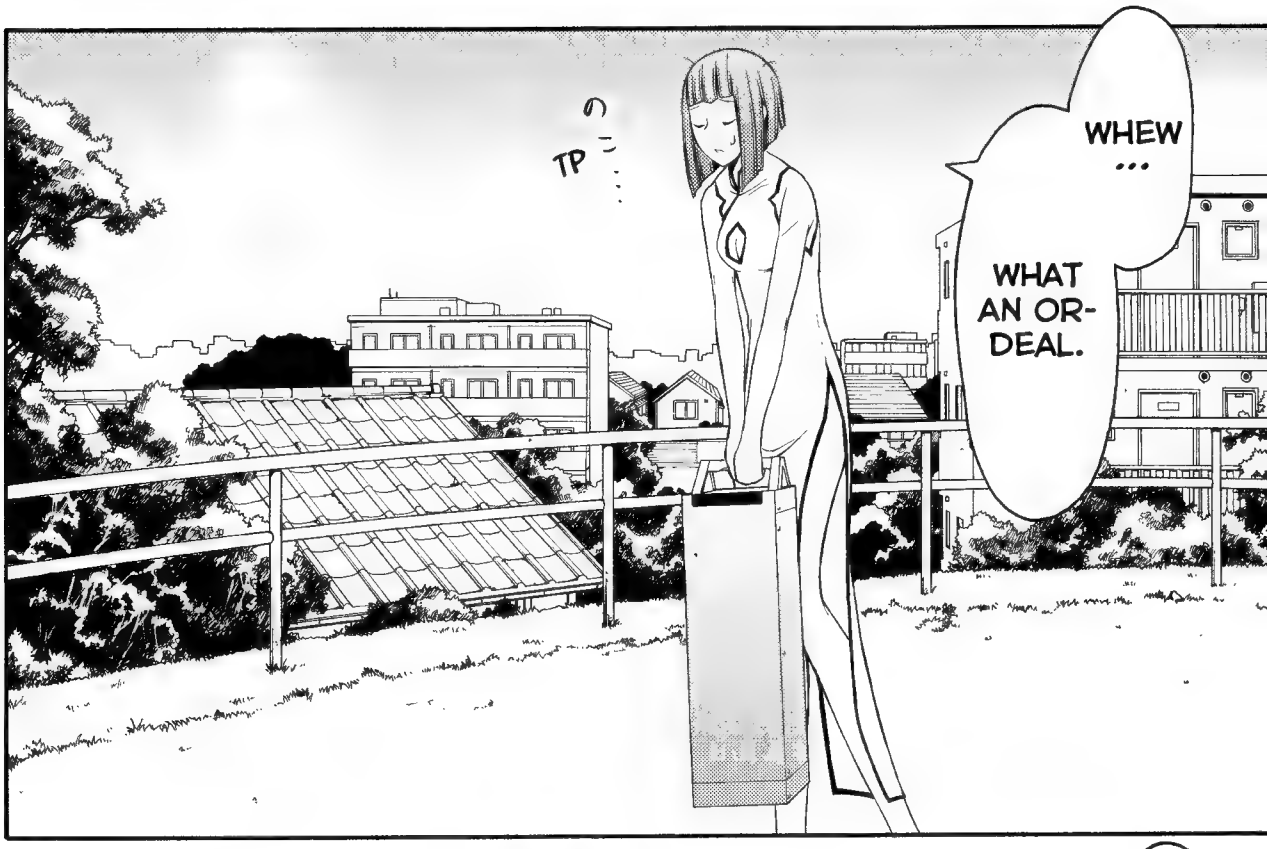

I DON'T THINK ANYONE COULD READ THIS.
I SEE ...
I GUESS IT'S "SIMPLE."
THIS IS CER-TAINLY... ROUGH.
HERE!
US
RIN DREW ME A MAP, BUT ...
...I'M NOT SO GOOD AT READING MAPS.
HM? LET ME SEE.

I'LL FIX IT UP SO YOU CAN...
WHAM
ドンッ!!

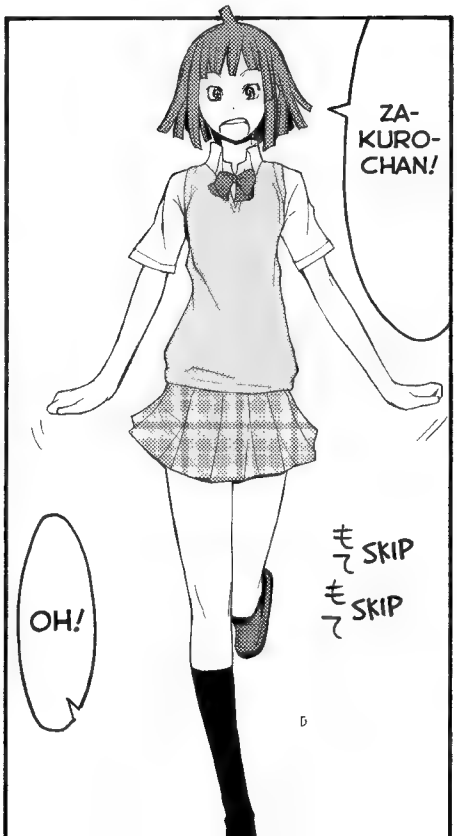
WOW, THAT SCARED ME.
きしっ
CREAK...
SHI-DOU-SAN.
AND ZAK-URO...
めきめき
CRICK CRICK...
VWUMP
WAAAUGH!

41ST NIGHT ONE OF SIX (PART TWO)

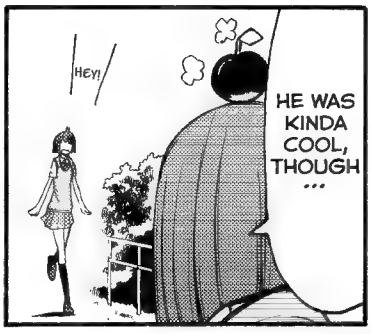
のこ TP
TP のこ

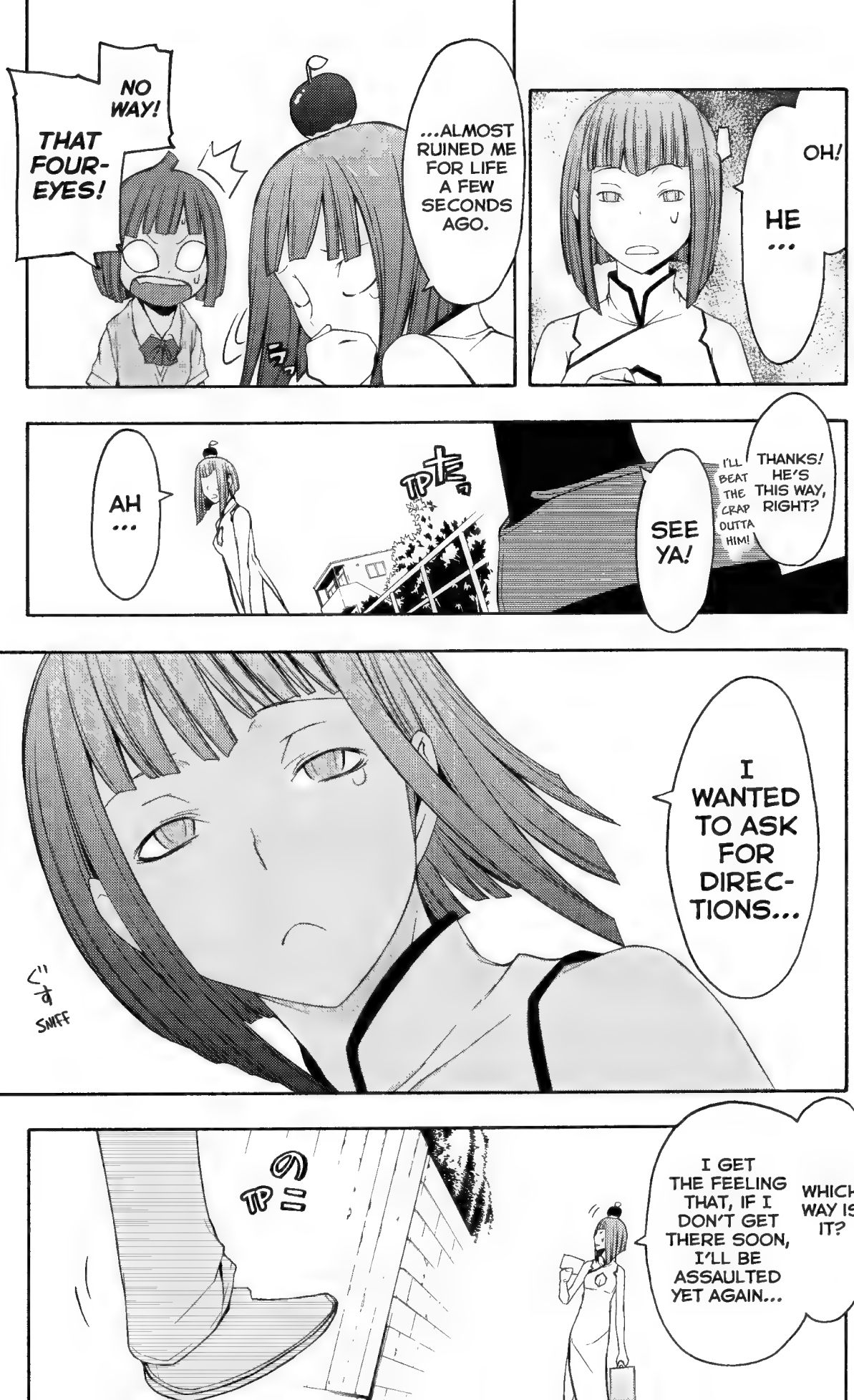

のこ TP…
WHEW…
WHAT AN ORDEAL.

GOOD DAY, TOUKA-SAN.
じろじろ STARE
HAVE YOU SEEN MY BROTHER?
JUST USE "CHAN."


ZA-KURO-CHAN!
もて SKIP
もて SKIP
OH!

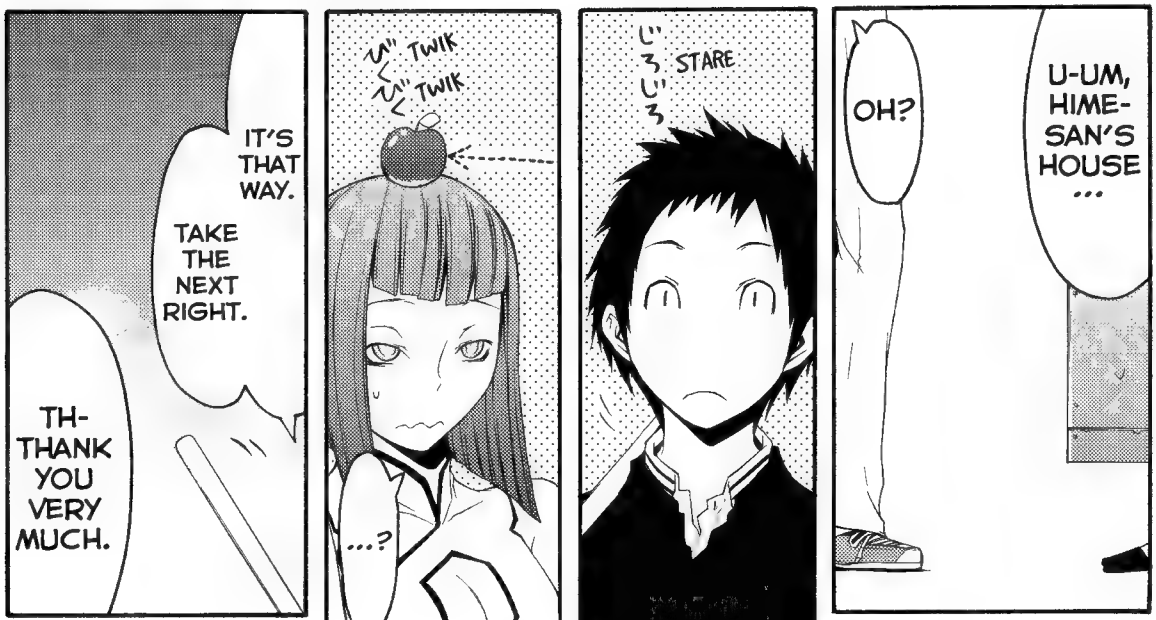
I HAVE TO STOP BEING SO NEGATIVE…
はっ GASP
NO, IT WASN'T!
IT WAS NO BIG DEAL!


HEY!
HE WAS KINDA COOL, THOUGH…


NO WAY!
THAT FOUR-EYES!
...ALMOST RUINED ME FOR LIFE A FEW SECONDS AGO.
OH!
HE...
AH...
THANKS! HE'S THIS WAY, RIGHT?
I'LL BEAT THE CRAP OUTTA HIM!
SEE YA!
I WANTED TO ASK FOR DIREC-TIONS...
SMFF
WHICH WAY IS IT?
I GET THE FEELING THAT, IF I DON'T GET THERE SOON, I'LL BE ASSAULTED YET AGAIN...

OH?
HEY, AKURO-ZAY.
UP TP

OUT ON DE-LIVERY?
WHERE YA HEAD-ED?
IS HE GOING TO BEAT ME?
A...
A STICK ?!


U-UM, HIME-SAN'S HOUSE ...
OH?
じぃ STARE
TWIK TWIK
...?
IT'S THAT WAY.
TAKE THE NEXT RIGHT.
TH-THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

OH ...
I'M COMING OVER LATER, TOO.
I FORGOT TO CLOSE THE OFFICE WHEN I WENT TO GET THIS BACK.
WAS HE OUT LOOKING FOR A FIGHT?
GULP
SIGH
I CAN'T EVEN DO ONE DELIV-ERY RIGHT.
WHAT IS MY PUR-POSE IN THIS TOWN?
AM I DOING ALL RIGHT?
AFTER ALL THE TROUBLE I CAUSED, THE PEOPLE STILL LET ME LIVE HERE, AND YET...
SWFF

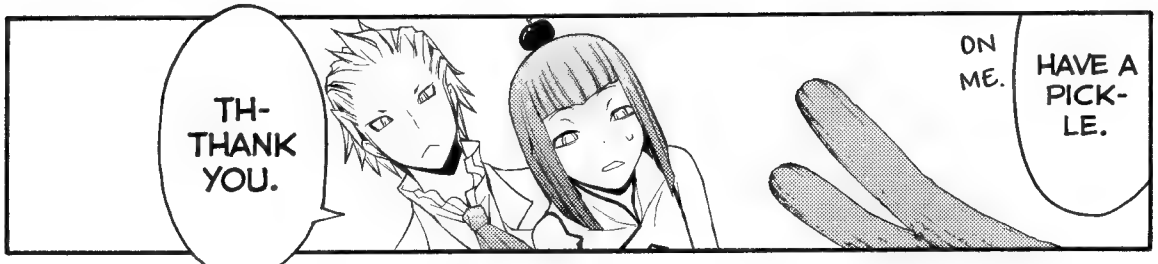
HE'S ...
...A HALF-DEMON!
HMM ...
I THINK ...
A HALF-DEMON... WHICH MEANS ...
...HE'S HERE TO FINISH ME.
BAM
A DEMON HUNTER!

HOLD ON, NOW.
WHAT ...
DA-DOOM
GUH!
SKIDD
BOOM
SHE'S STRONG!
!

はー HUFF
はー HUFF
がた QUIVER
がた QUIVER
...!
CHILL.
JUST LISTEN TO ME ...
STOP RIGHT ...
WAU GH!
どさっ
FWUMP

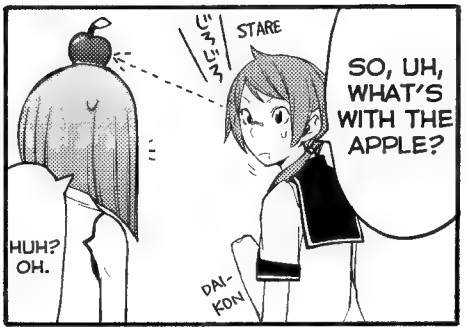
...
...
LEGS?
NO, THAT'S PROBABLY...
I'LL PULL HER OUT.
バタ FLAIL
バタ FLAIL
バタ
KOTOHA-SAN ...
WAIT, ZUKA-CHAN?
HELLO.
DOES THAT MEAN YOU KNOW HIM?
I'M SO SORRY!
HEH HEH! STOP RIGHT THERE!
LET ME START FROM THE TOP.
HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN A WHILE, ZUKA-CHAN.
は HUFF
あ
は
あ HUFF

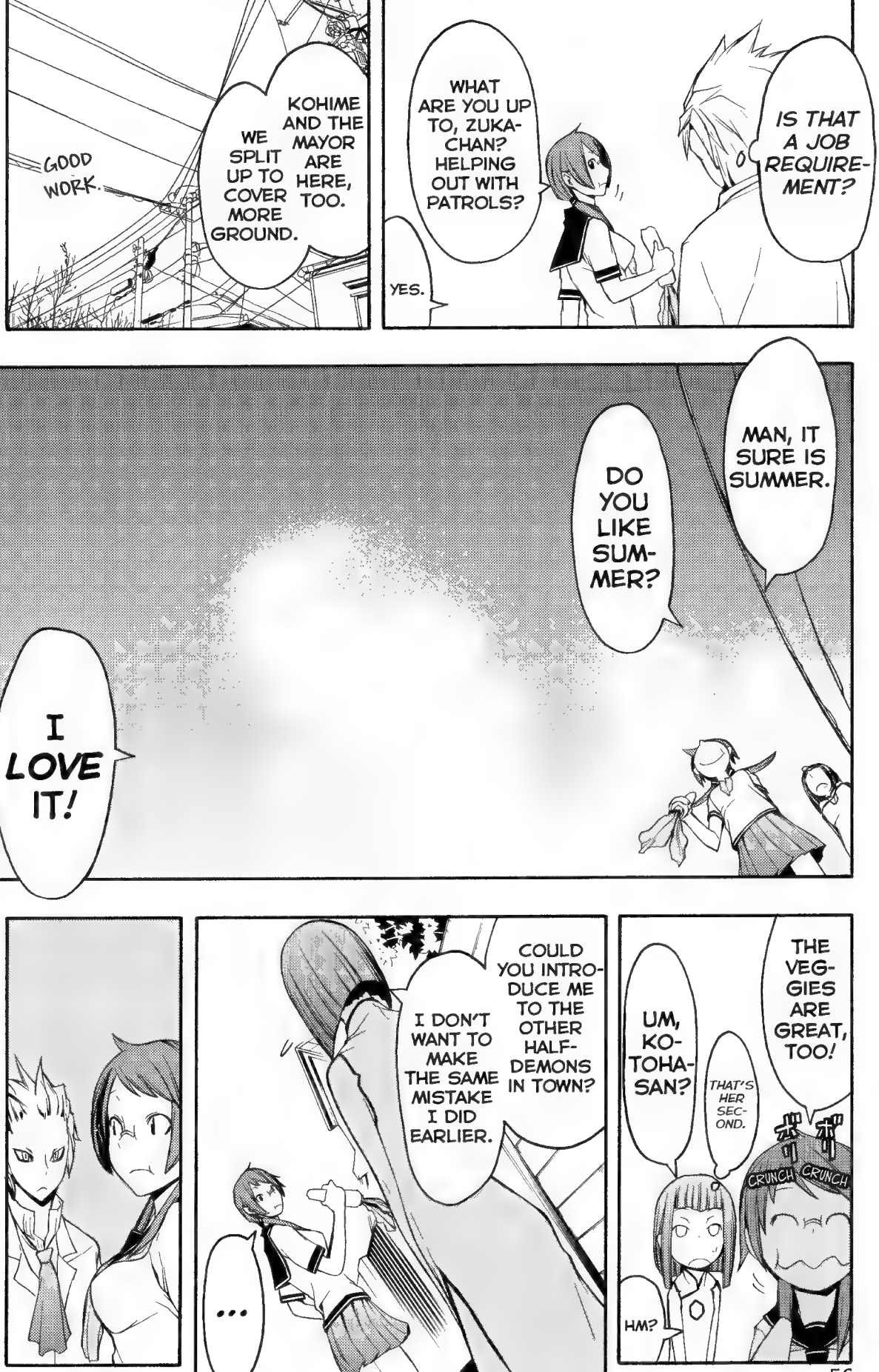
I WILL!
COME BACK SOON!


TH-THANK YOU.
HAVE A PICK-LE.
ON ME.

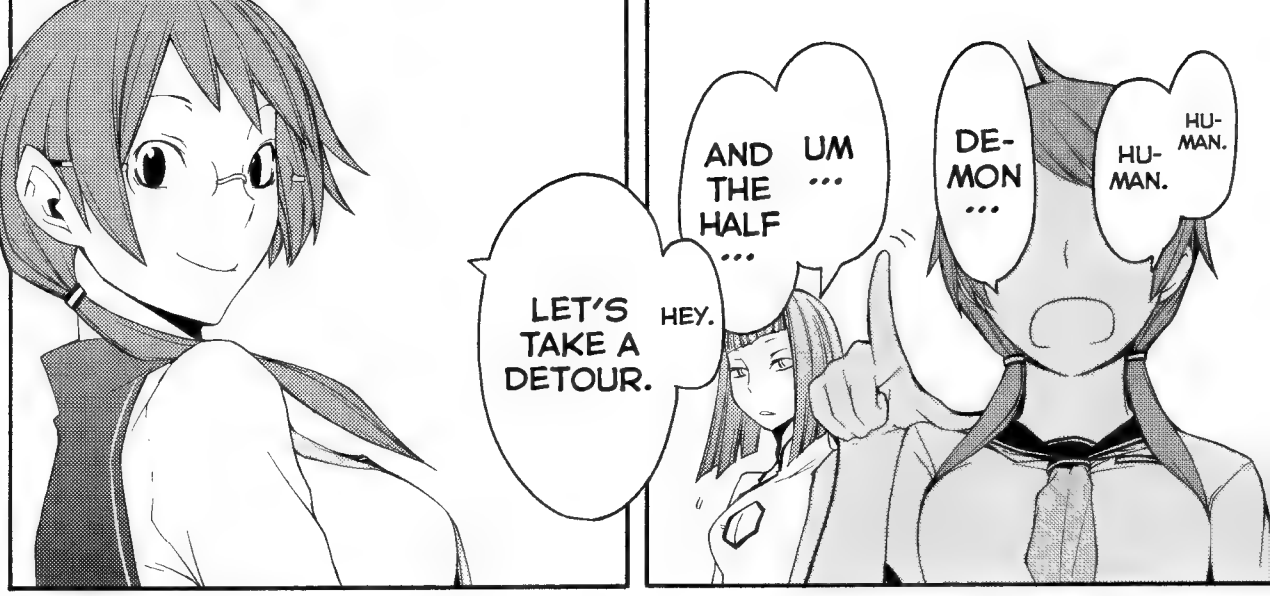
THE NOODLES AND SOUP ARE SEPAR-ATE.
JUST IN CASE I GOT LOST.
YOUR RAMEN HASN'T GONE SOGGY, HAS IT?
HIME'S FRIDGE WAS EMPTY, YOU SEE.
SORRY FOR MAKING YOU COME SHOPPING WITH ME.

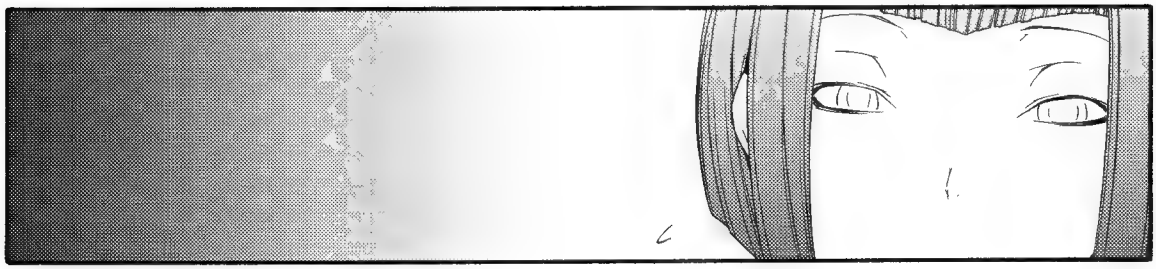
OH, I'VE SEEN RIN DO THAT SOME-TIMES.
HIME CAN DO THAT, TOO.
I'M PRAC-TICING SO I CAN BAL-ANCE THE DELIVERY BOX ON MY HEAD.


SO, UH, WHAT'S WITH THE APPLE?
STARE
UM UM
HUH? OH.
DAI-KON

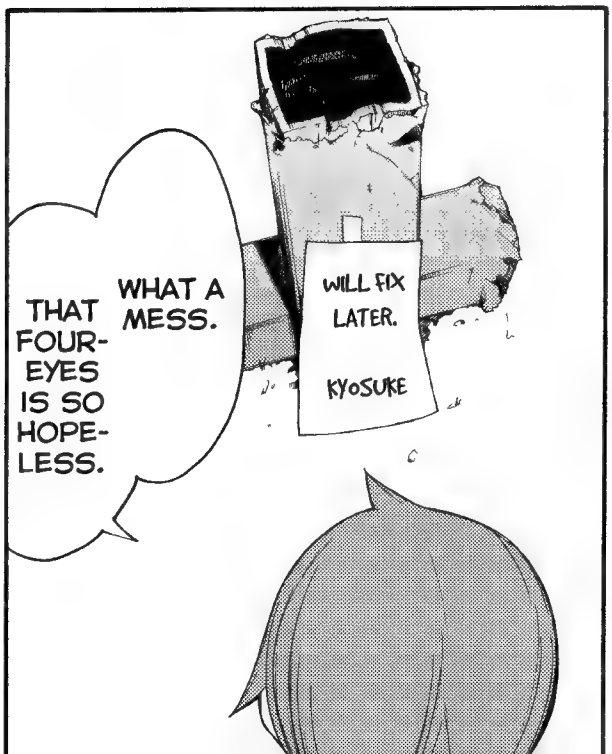

GOOD WORK.
WE SPLIT UP TO COVER MORE GROUND.
KOHIME AND THE MAYOR ARE HERE, TOO.
YES.
WHAT ARE YOU UP TO, ZUKA-CHAN? HELPING OUT WITH PATROLS?
IS THAT A JOB REQUIRE-MENT?
MAN, IT SURE IS SUMMER.
DO YOU LIKE SUM-MER?
I LOVE IT!
...
I DON'T WANT TO MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE I DID EARLIER.
COULD YOU INTRO-DUCE ME TO THE OTHER HALF-DEMONS IN TOWN?
UM, KO-TOHA-SAN?
THAT'S HER SEC-OND.
THE VEG-GIES ARE GREAT, TOO!
CRUNCH CRUNCH
HM?

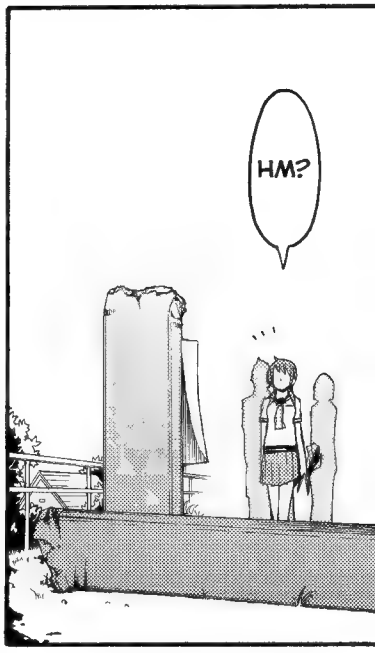
HI, KOTOHA-CHAN! BYE, KOTOHA-CHAN!
FLIP
YOU'RE GONNA BORE SOMEONE IF ALL YOU WEAR IS WHITE AND STRIPES!
YOU LITTLE PERVS!
HMM. WELL ...
たTP
たTP
CAREFUL ON YOUR WAY HOME!
...
SHE'S A DE-MON.
SHE'S HUMAN.
SHFF
THAT OLD MAN'S A DE-MON.
HU-MAN.
HU-MAN.
HU-MAN.
DE-MON.
HU-MAN ...


HEY.
LET'S TAKE A DETOUR.
UM ...
AND THE HALF ...
DE-MON ...
HU-MAN.
HU-MAN.

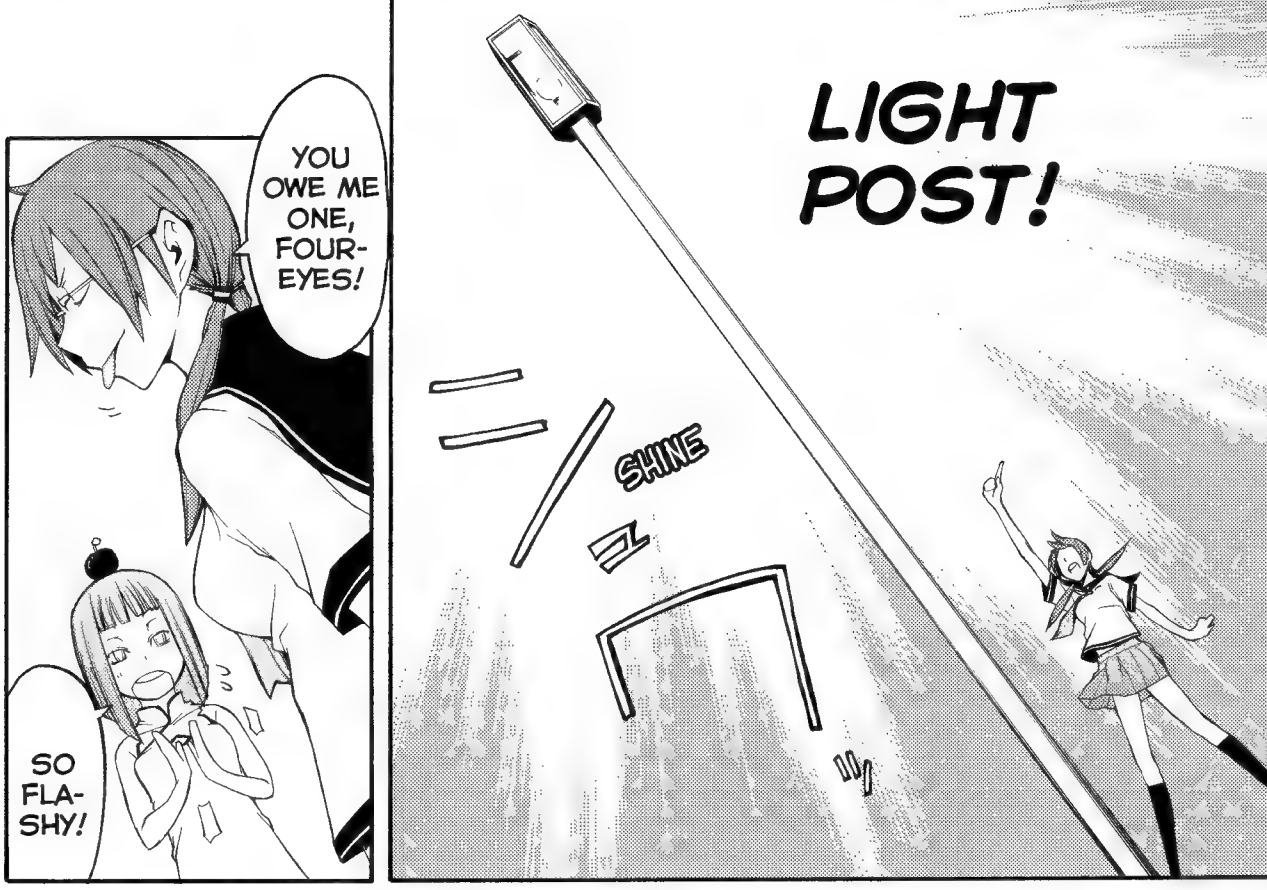


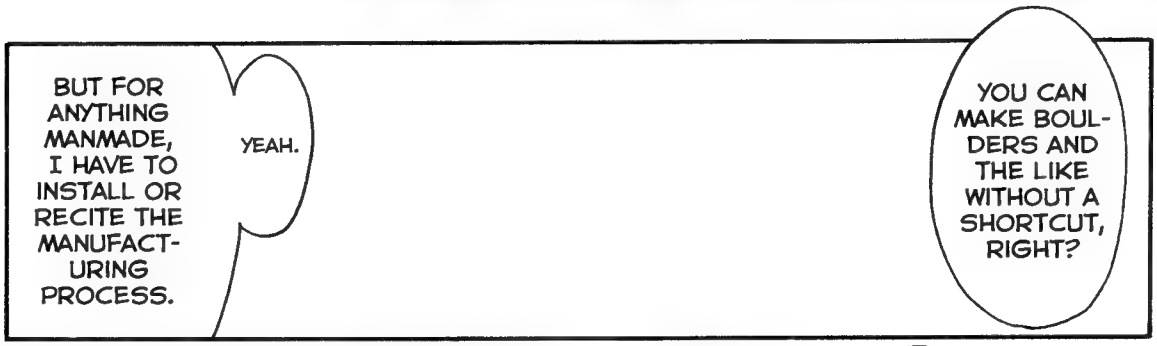
ZUKA-CHAN, HOLD THAT SIDE.
GUESS I'LL INSTALL IT, THEN.
ROGER.


WHAT A MESS.
THAT FOUR-EYES IS SO HOPE-LESS.
WILL FIX LATER.
KYOSUKE

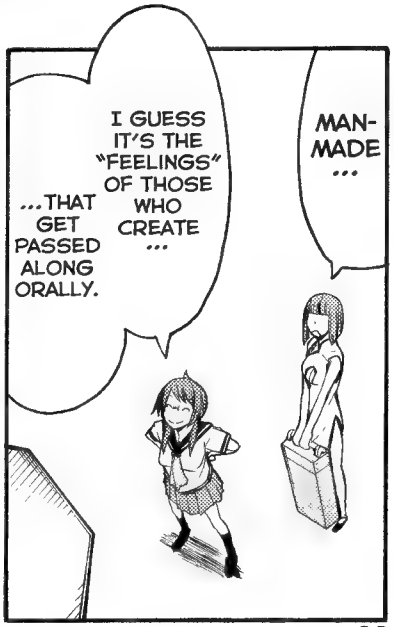

HM?

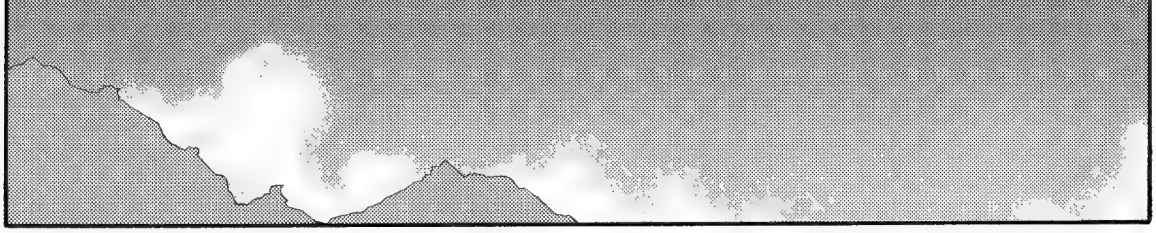
ペロ
LICK ろ
ペロ
LICK ろ
HM.
HMM.
AGHAST あんぐり
I SEE, I SEE.
SLURP ぺろりんこ
HM.
OKAY!
I'VE MEMORIZED THE TASTE.
GLOW
パチ
SPAK
NOW... SHORT-CUT!
INSTALL COM-PLETE.

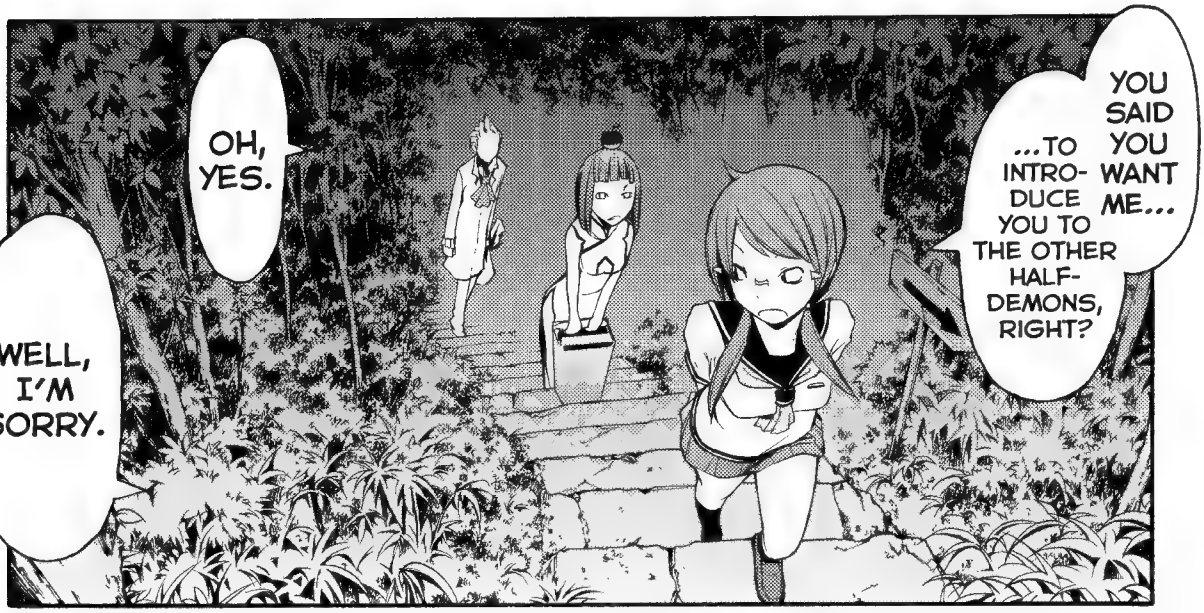

YOU OWE ME ONE, FOUR-EYES!
SO FLA-SHY!
LIGHT POST!
SHINE

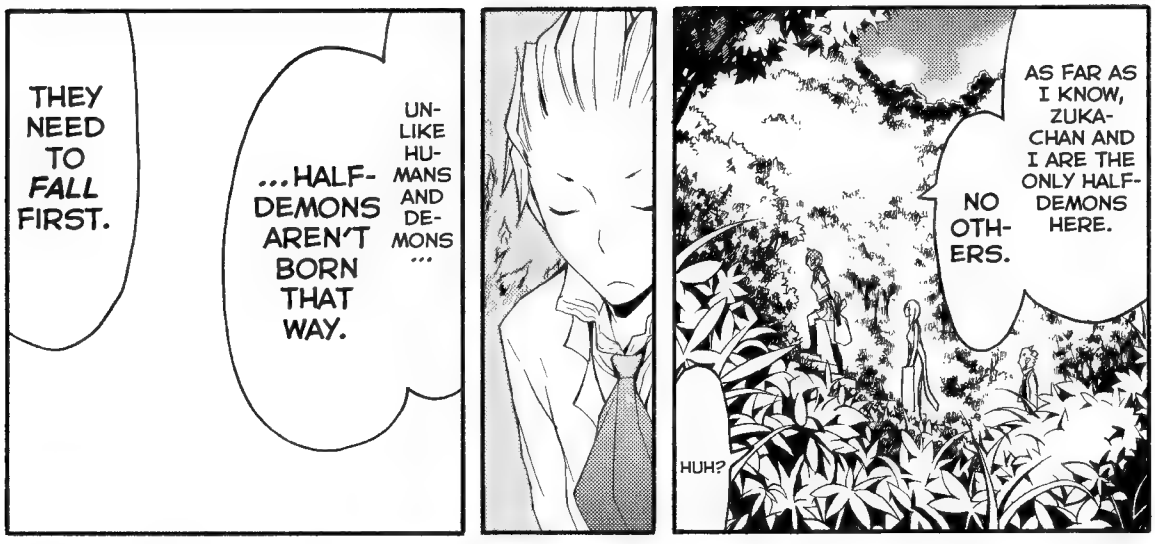

BUT FOR ANYTHING MANMADE, I HAVE TO INSTALL OR RECITE THE MANUFACT-URING PROCESS.
YEAH.
YOU CAN MAKE BOUL-DERS AND THE LIKE WITHOUT A SHORTCUT, RIGHT?

AND PASS-ING THOSE FEELINGS ALONG IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF KOTODAMA USERS, YOU COULD SAY.


MAN-MADE ...
I GUESS IT'S THE "FEELINGS" OF THOSE WHO CREATE ...
...THAT GET PASSED ALONG ORALLY.



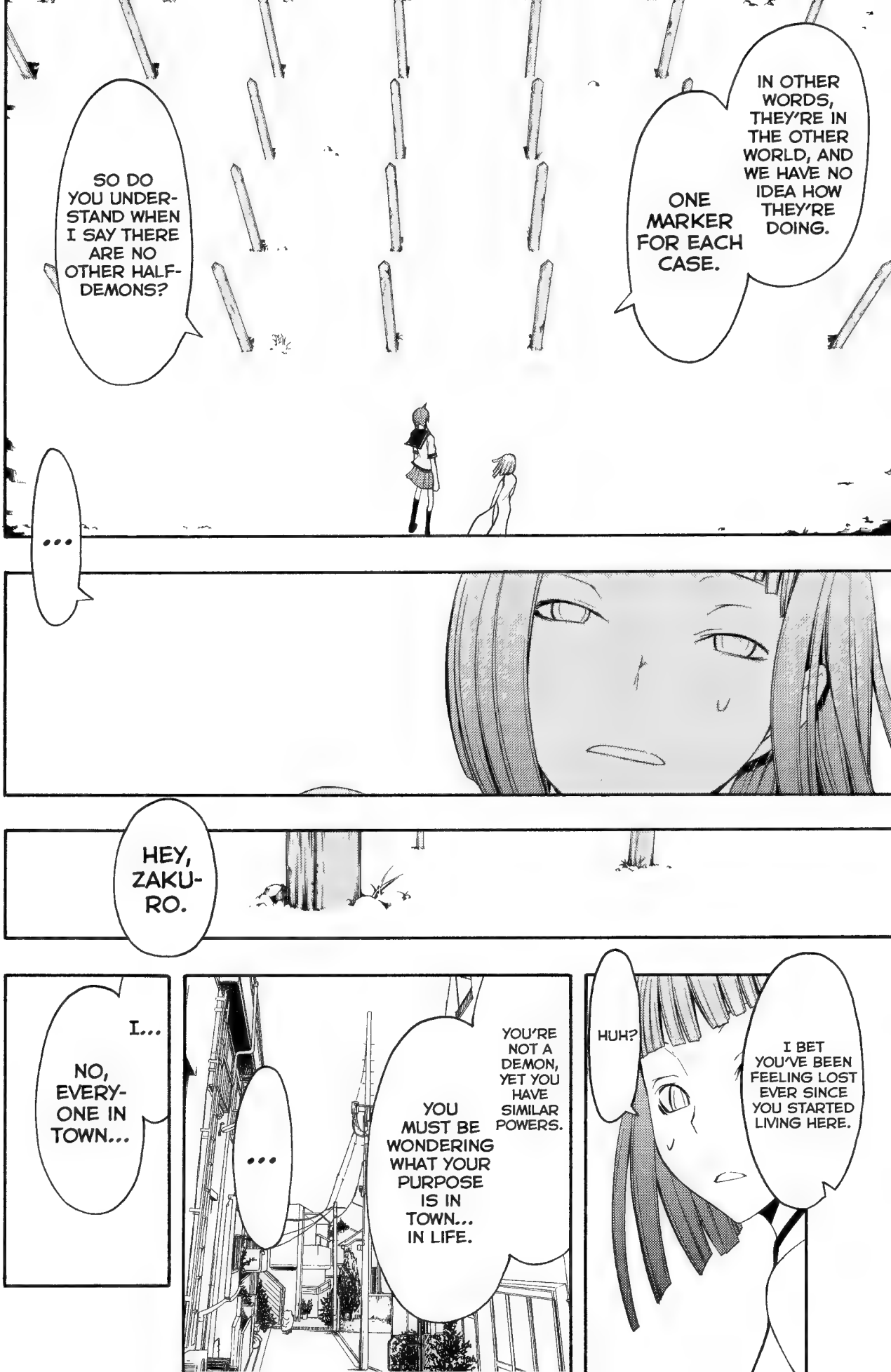

YOU SAID YOU WANT ME...
...TO INTRODUCE YOU TO THE OTHER HALF-DEMONS, RIGHT?
OH, YES.
WELL, I'M SORRY.

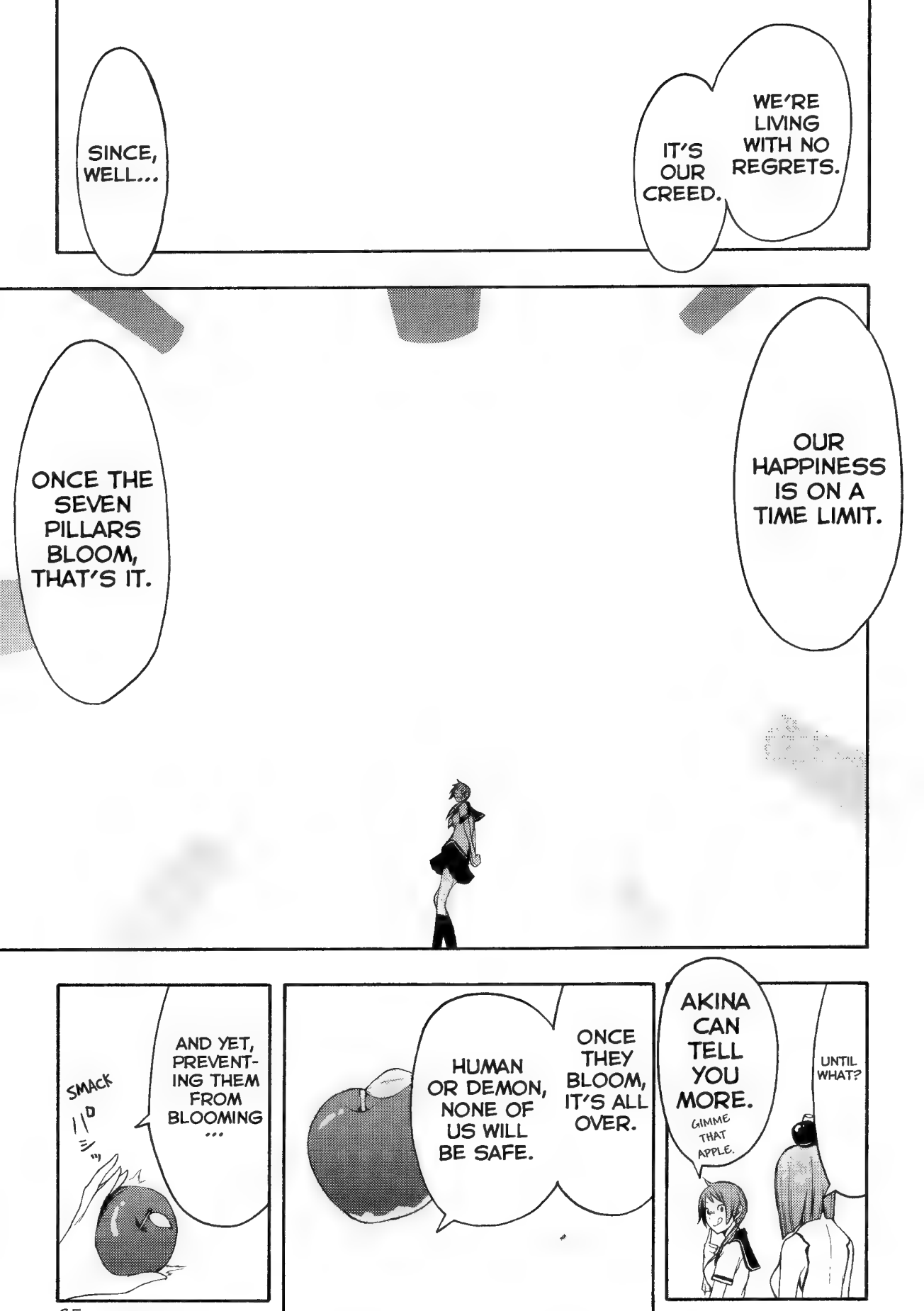

AS FAR AS I KNOW, ZUKA-CHAN AND I ARE THE ONLY HALF-DEMONS HERE.
NO OTHERS.
HUH?
UNLIKE HUMANS AND DEMONS...
...HALF-DEMONS AREN'T BORN THAT WAY.
THEY NEED TO *FALL* FIRST.

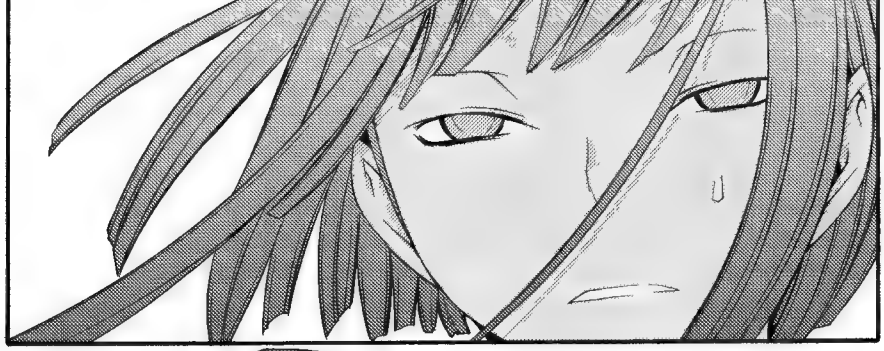
LIGHT CASES CAN BE EXORCISED AND RETURNED TO NORMAL.
MOST SERIOUS ONES WILL STILL HAVE THE DEMONIC ENERGY REMAIN, TURNING THEM INTO HALF-DEMONS.
THAT'S US.

BUT WE'RE ...
...REALLY, REALLY...
CRUNCH
...RARE CASES.
GRAVES ?!

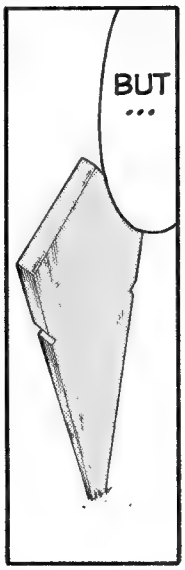
WOOO
TECHNICALLY, THEY'RE NOT REALLY GRAVES.
THESE ARE FOR ALL THE PEOPLE WHO HAD TO BE SENT ON BECAUSE THERE WAS NO WAY TO FULLY EXORCISE THEM. THEY'RE NOT DEAD.


IN OTHER WORDS, THEY'RE IN THE OTHER WORLD, AND WE HAVE NO IDEA HOW THEY'RE DOING.
ONE MARKER FOR EACH CASE.
SO DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHEN I SAY THERE ARE NO OTHER HALF-DEMONS?
...
HEY, ZAKURO.
I...
NO, EVERYONE IN TOWN...
...
YOU'RE NOT A DEMON, YET YOU HAVE SIMILAR POWERS.
YOU MUST BE WONDERING WHAT YOUR PURPOSE IS IN TOWN... IN LIFE.
HUH?
I BET YOU'VE BEEN FEELING LOST EVER SINCE YOU STARTED LIVING HERE.


SINCE, WELL...
IT'S OUR CREED.
WE'RE LIVING WITH NO REGRETS.
ONCE THE SEVEN PILLARS BLOOM, THAT'S IT.
OUR HAPPINESS IS ON A TIME LIMIT.
SMACK
AND YET, PREVENTING THEM FROM BLOOMING ...
HUMAN OR DEMON, NONE OF US WILL BE SAFE.
ONCE THEY BLOOM, IT'S ALL OVER.
AKINA CAN TELL YOU MORE.
GIMME THAT APPLE.
UNTIL WHAT?

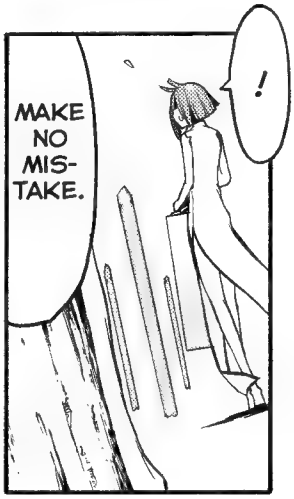


CRUNCH
...WILL REQUIRE SACRIFICING DEMONS.
WE'RE ALL JUST WAITING FOR THE INEVITABLE.

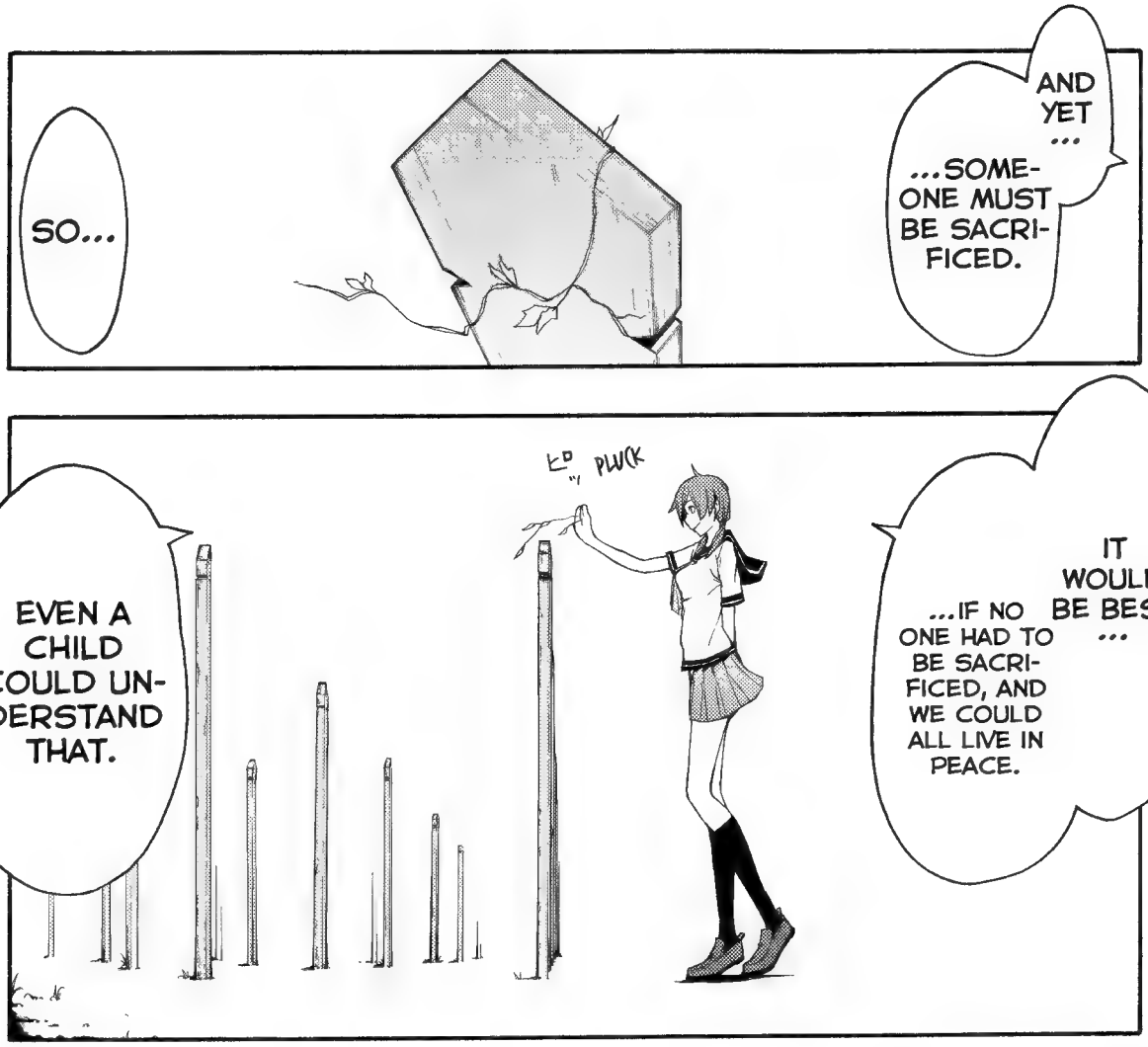

BUT ...

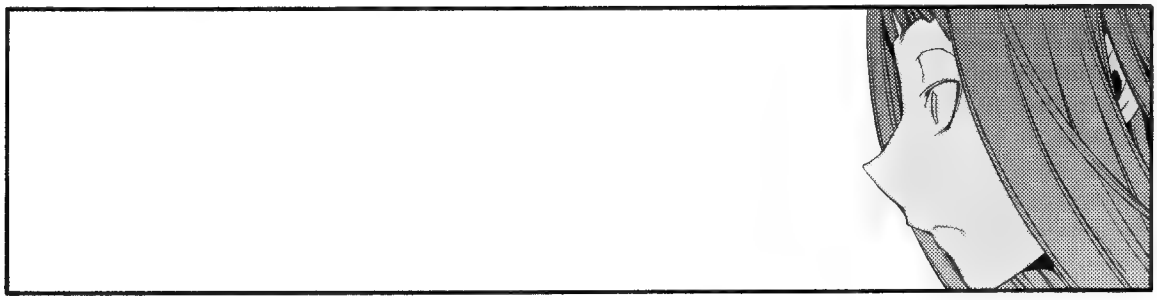
I'M NOT ABOUT TO BE THE SACRIFICE.
NOT EVER.

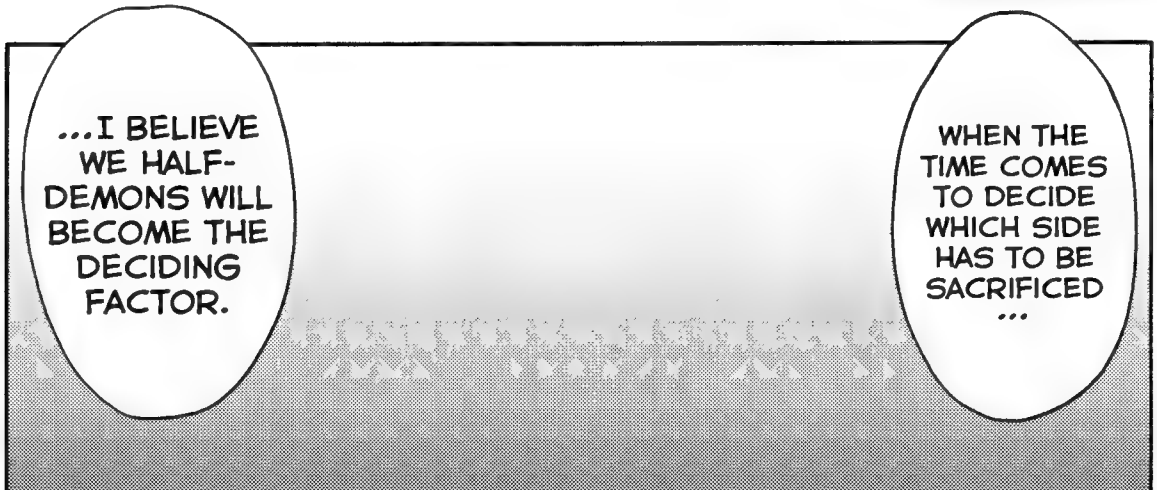
...
ME, NEITHER.

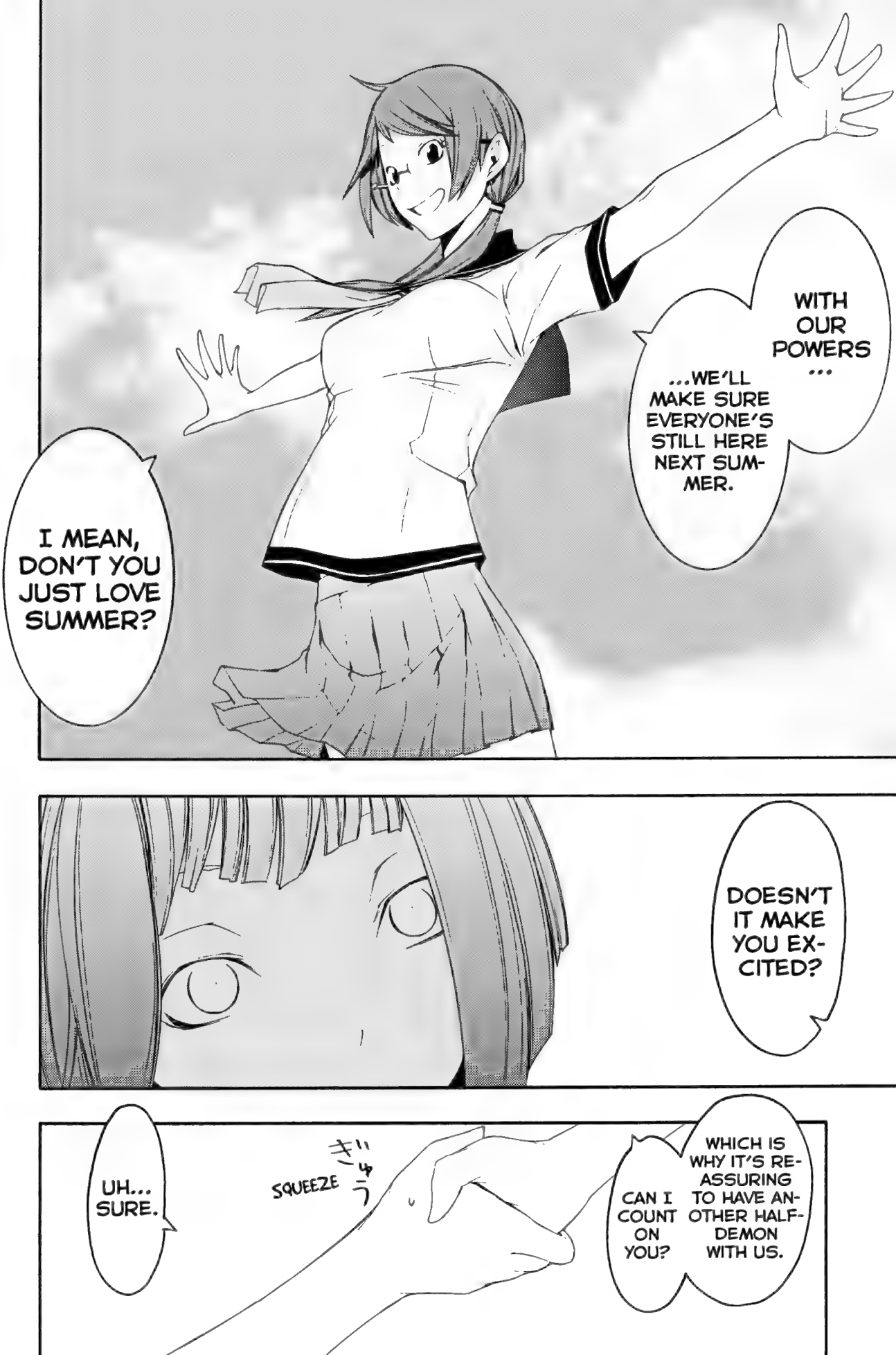

!
MAKE NO MISTAKE.

I DO NOT WISH TO OBTAIN HAPPINESS BY SACRIFICING OTHERS.
SUCH HAPPINESS CANNOT BE CALLED TRUE HAPPINESS.

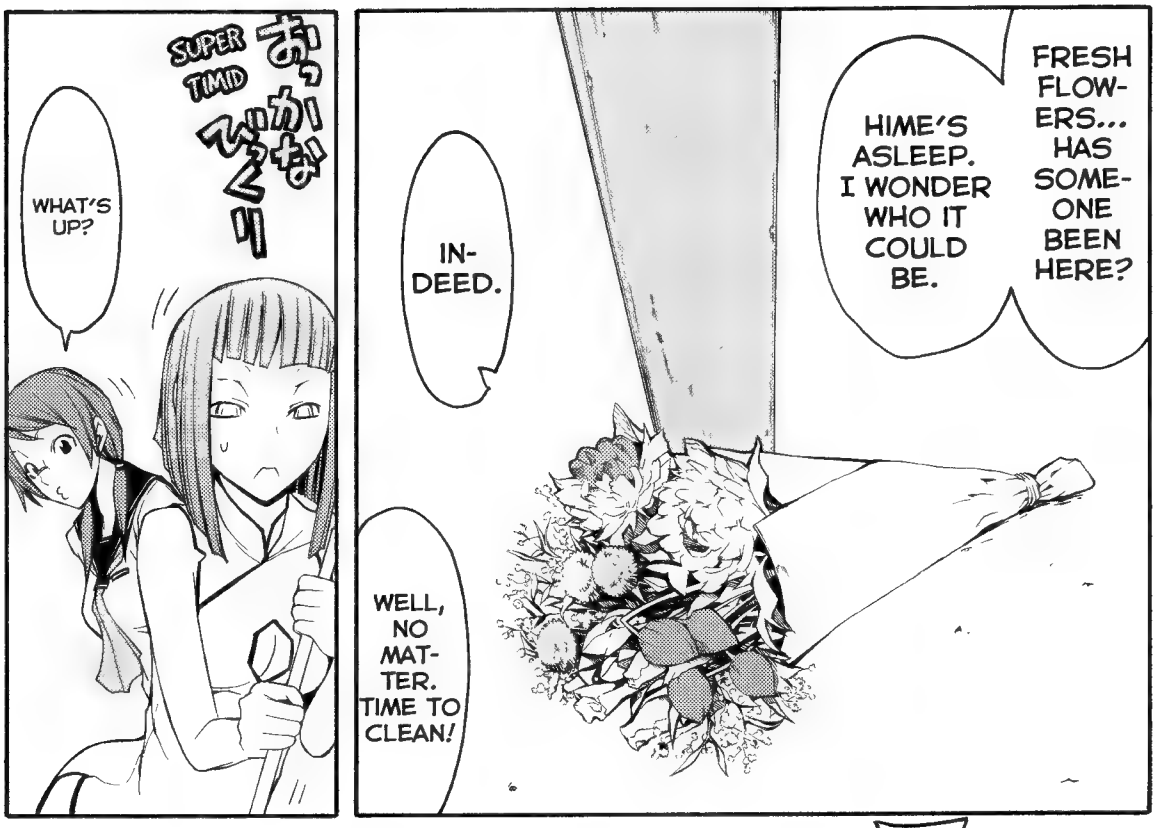

SO...
AND YET ...
...SOMEONE MUST BE SACRIFICED.
PLUCK
EVEN A CHILD COULD UNDERSTAND THAT.
...IF NO ONE HAD TO BE SACRIFICED, AND WE COULD ALL LIVE IN PEACE.
IT WOULD BE BEST ...

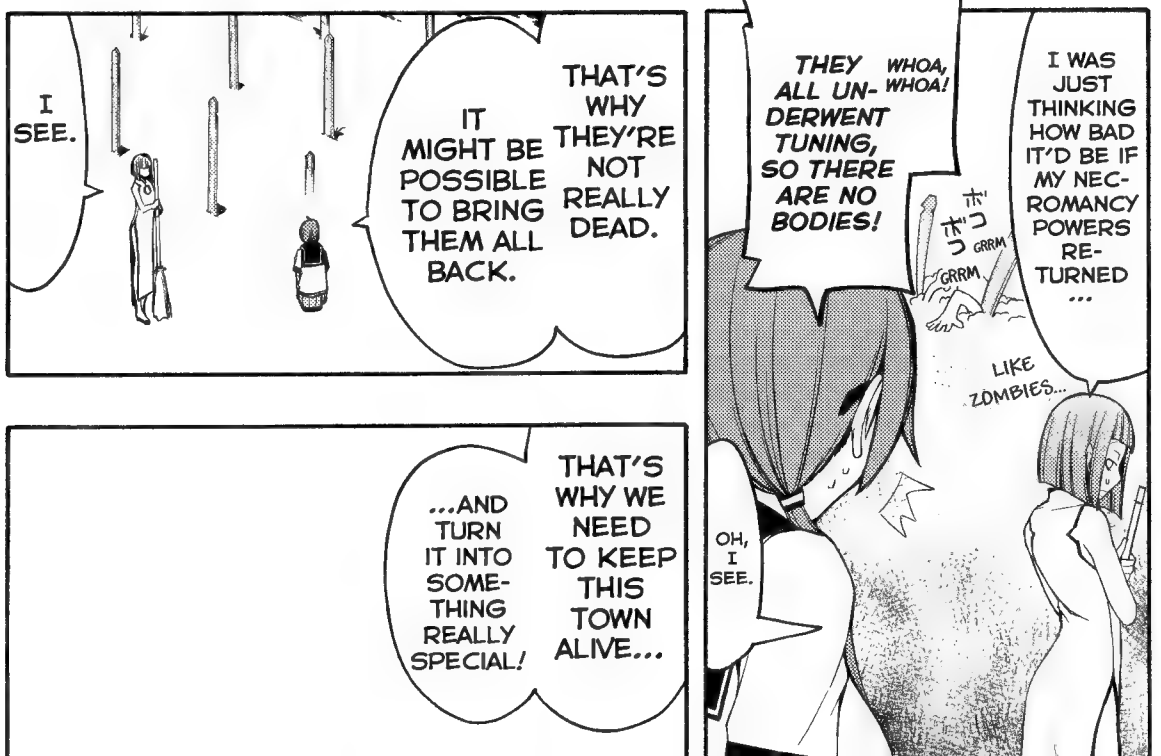


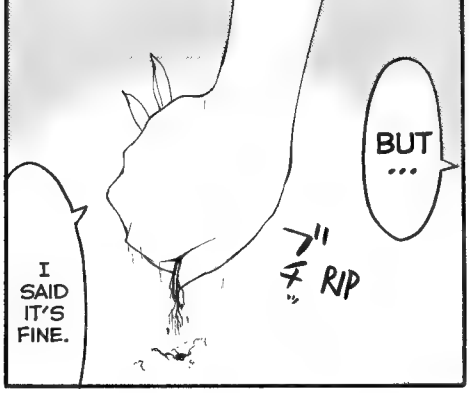

...I BELIEVE WE HALF-DEMONS WILL BECOME THE DECIDING FACTOR.
WHEN THE TIME COMES TO DECIDE WHICH SIDE HAS TO BE SACRIFICED ...


I MEAN, DON'T YOU JUST LOVE SUMMER?
...WE'LL MAKE SURE EVERYONE'S STILL HERE NEXT SUMMER.
WITH OUR POWERS ...
DOESN'T IT MAKE YOU EXCITED?
UH... SURE.
SQUEEZE
きゅう
CAN I COUNT ON YOU?
WHICH IS WHY IT'S REASSURING TO HAVE ANOTHER HALF-DEMON WITH US.

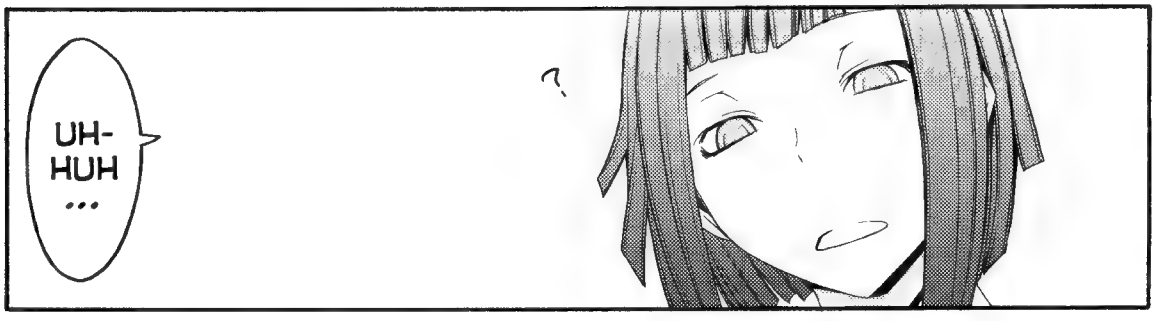
SINCE WE'RE HERE, WE MIGHT AS WELL CLEAN UP.
GOOD POINT.
HM?


FRESH FLOWERS... HAS SOMEONE BEEN HERE?
HIME'S ASLEEP. I WONDER WHO IT COULD BE.
INDEED.
WELL, NO MATTER. TIME TO CLEAN!
SUPER TIMID おっかなびっくり
WHAT'S UP?


I WAS JUST THINKING HOW BAD IT'D BE IF MY NECROMANCY POWERS RETURNED ...
LIKE ZOMBIES...
WHOA, WHOA!
THEY ALL UNDERWENT TUNING, SO THERE ARE NO BODIES!
ボコッ GRRM
GRRM
OH, I SEE.
THAT'S WHY THEY'RE NOT REALLY DEAD.
IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO BRING THEM ALL BACK.
I SEE.
THAT'S WHY WE NEED TO KEEP THIS TOWN ALIVE...
...AND TURN IT INTO SOMETHING REALLY SPECIAL!

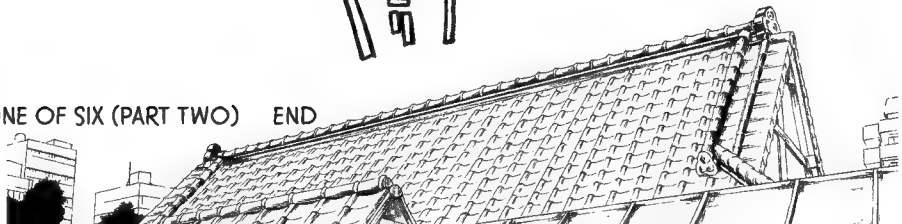


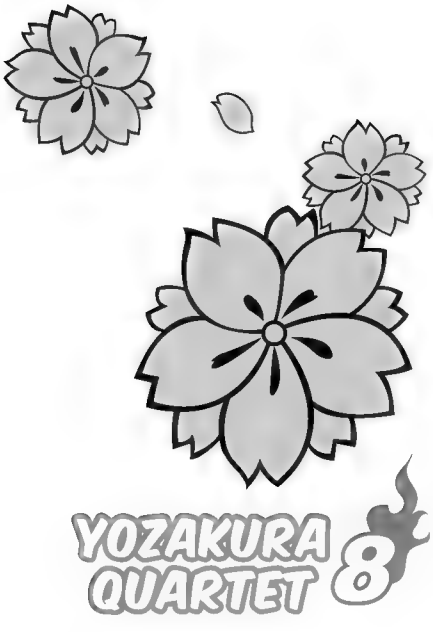
I'M SURE SHE'LL FIND SOME WAY TO TURN THINGS AROUND.
...A CERTAIN SOMEONE WILL BE FILLED WITH STRENGTH.
IF SHE SEES THE NEWCOMER HAVING FUN AND FLOURISHING...



FACSIMILE!

41ST NIGHT ONE OF SIX (PART TWO) END



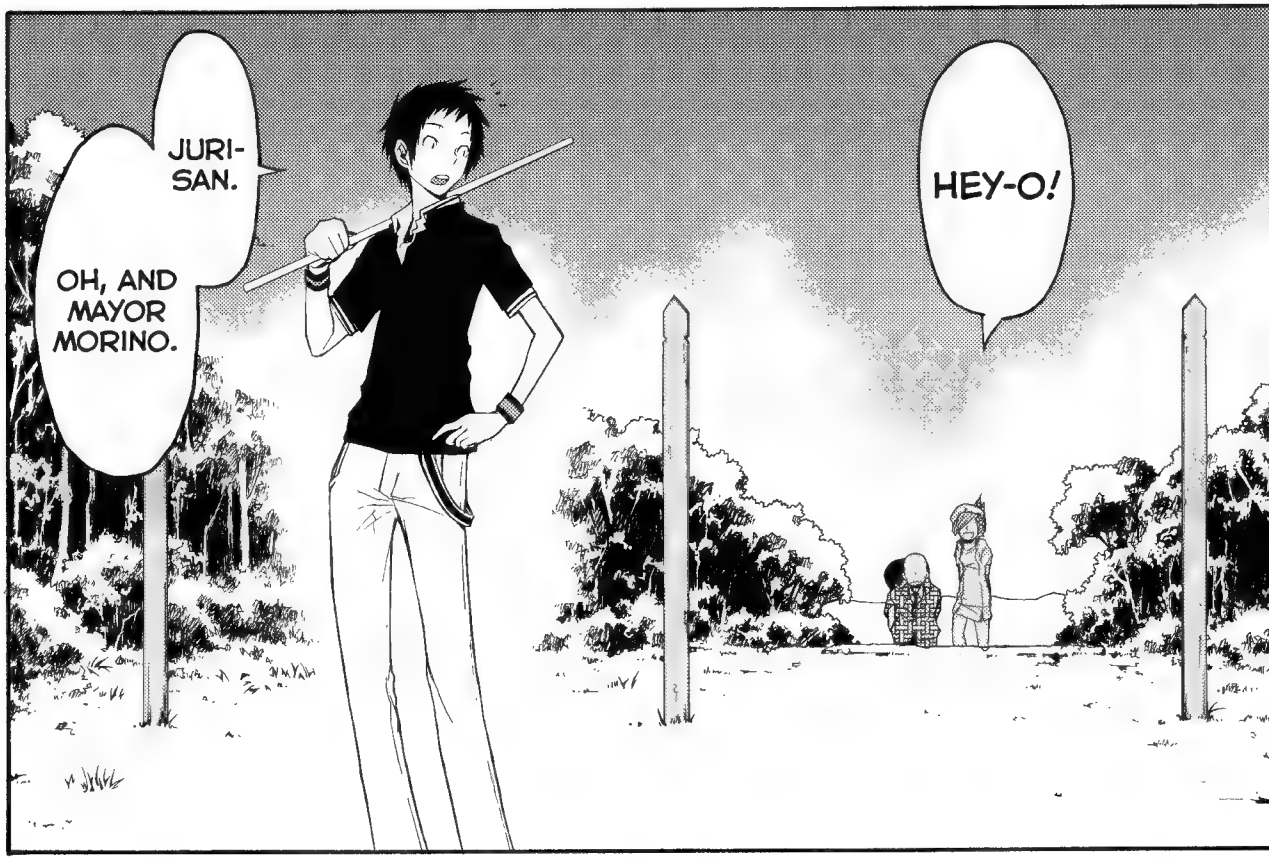

YOZAKURA
QUARTET
8

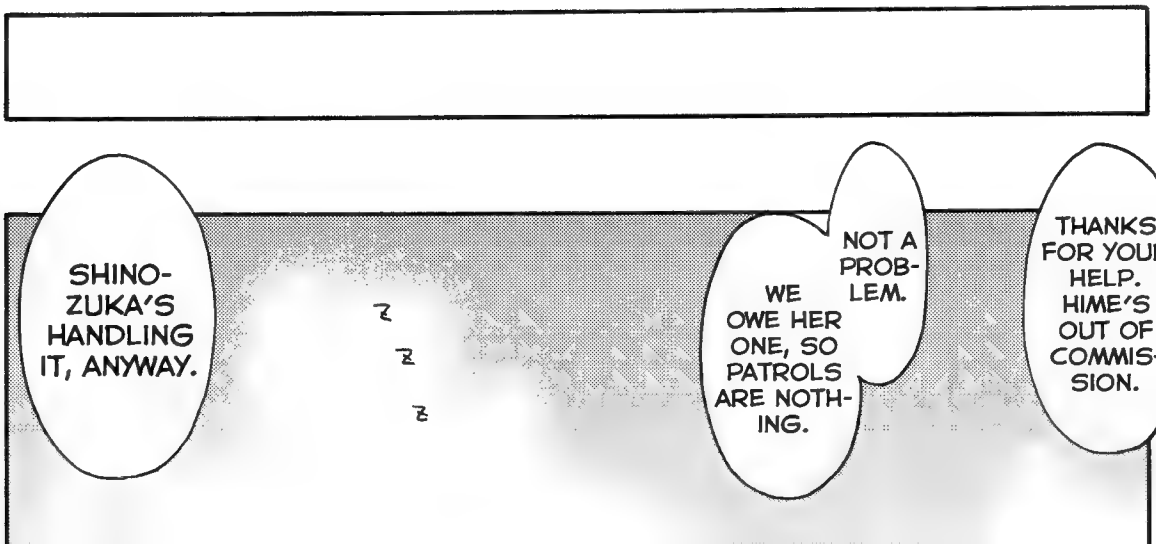
THIS IS EASY!
A NATURAL

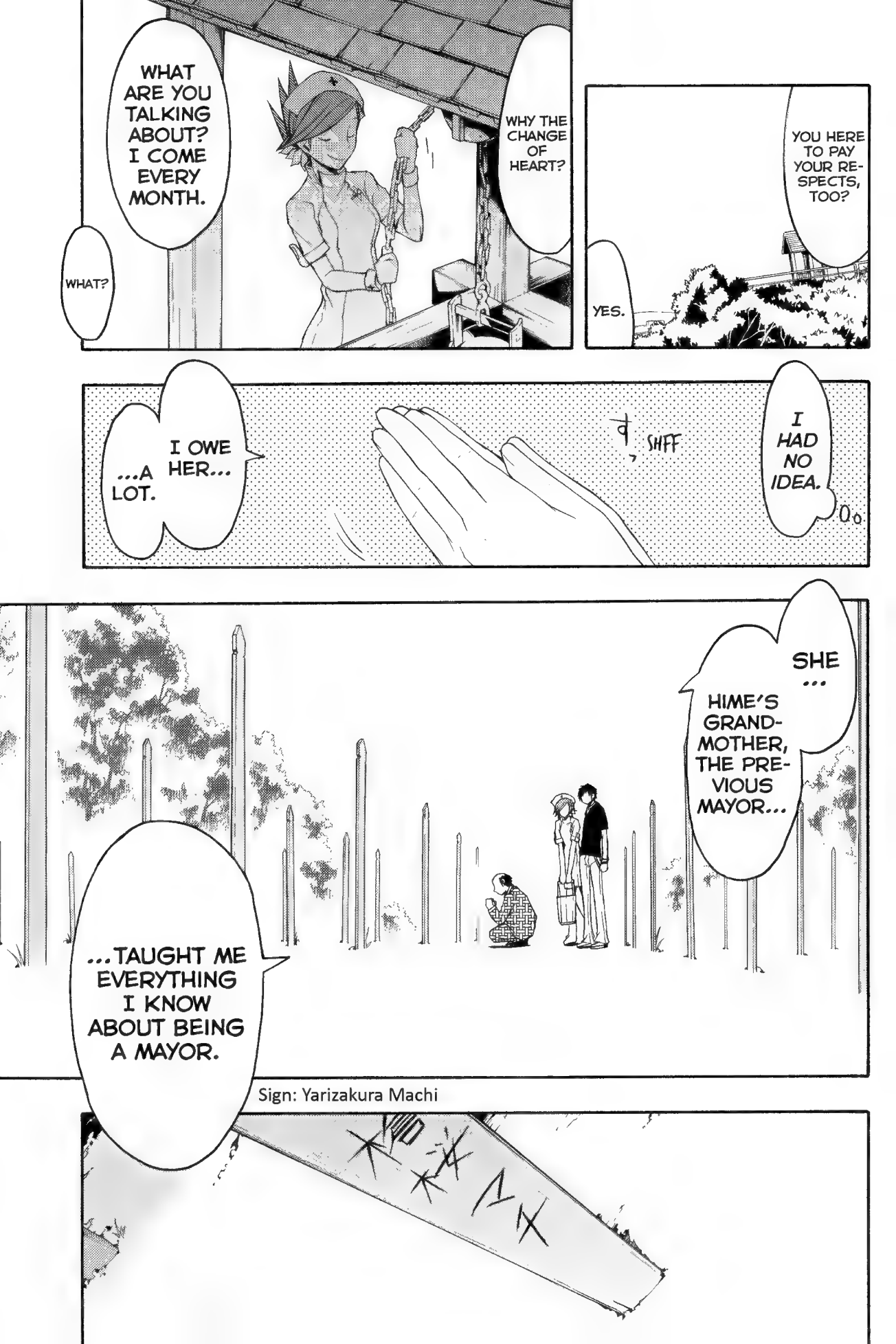
I WISH I COULD'VE BROUGHT FLOWERS FOR EVERY-ONE.
SKKSH
BUT IT'S JUST NOT PRACTI-CAL.
YOU ALWAYS SAID IT WAS THE THOUGHT THAT COUNTS ...
比泉家代々之墓
...DIDN'T YOU, GRAND-PA?

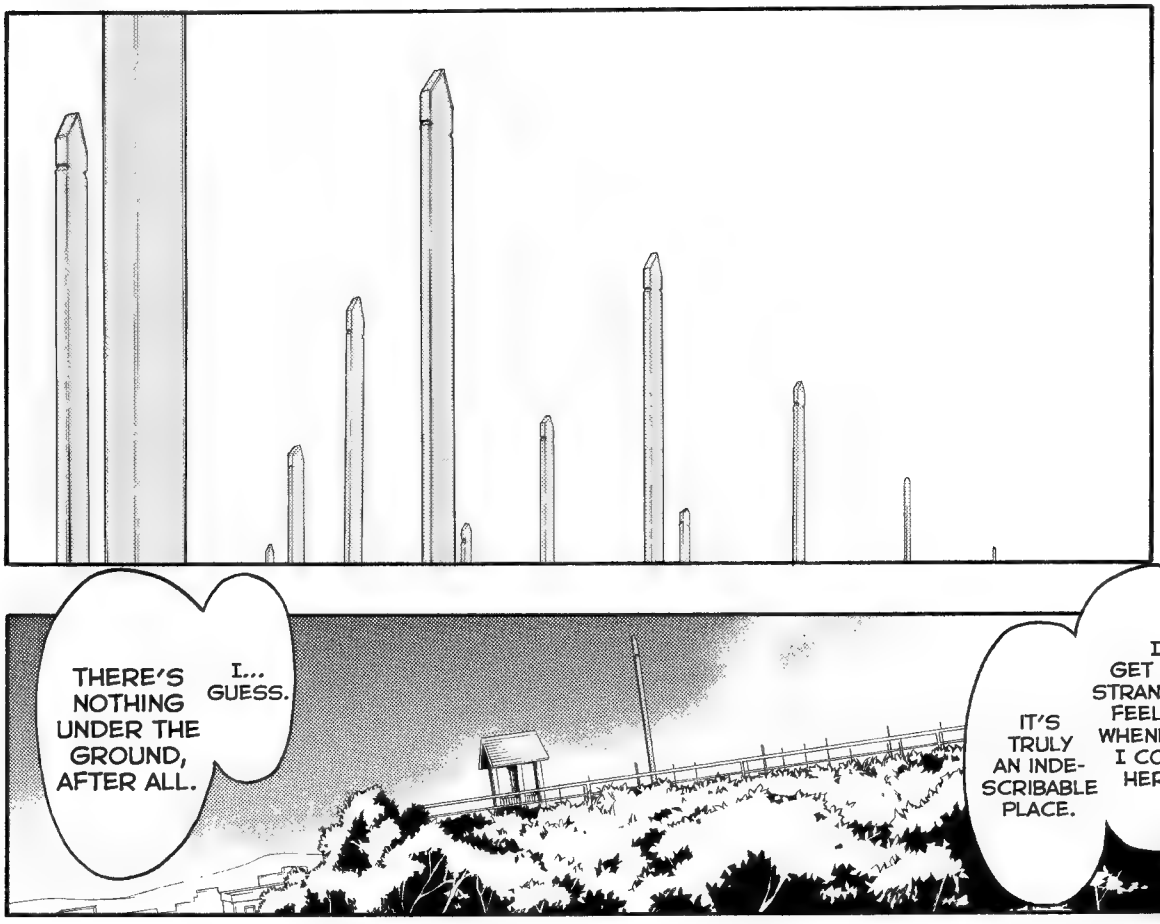
Sign: Hiizumi Family Grave

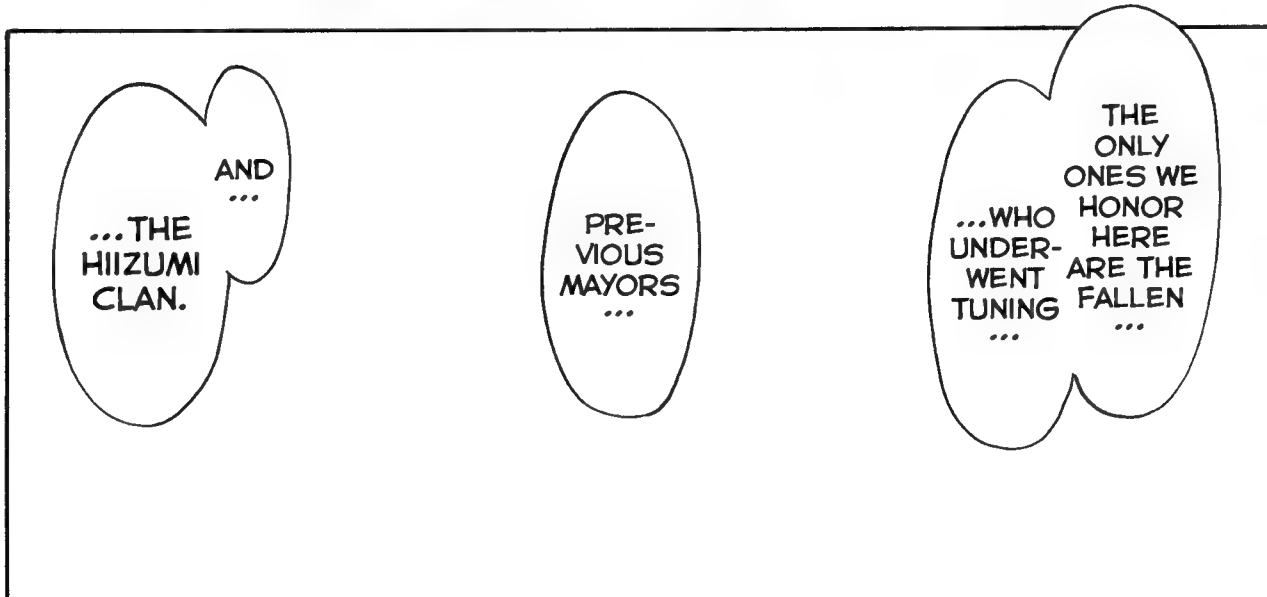
OH.

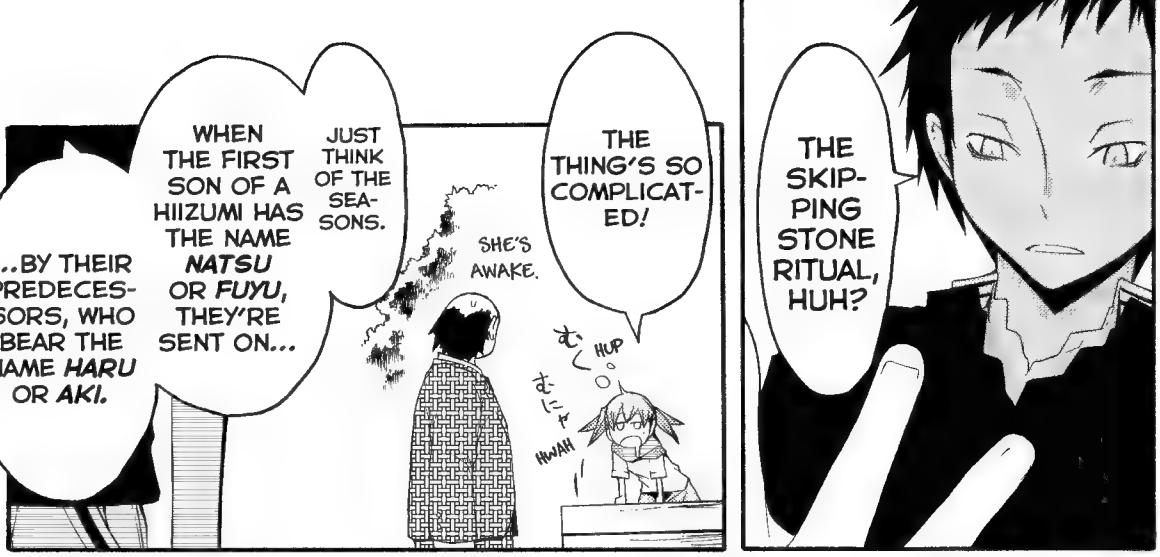

JURI-SAN.
OH, AND MAYOR MORINO.
HEY-O!

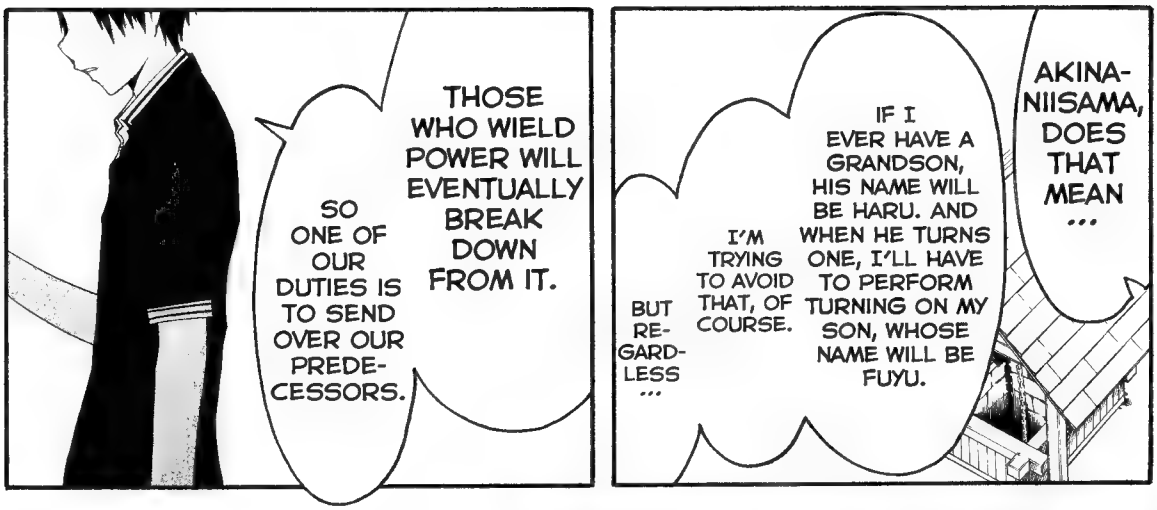

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP. HIME'S OUT OF COMMISSION.
NOT A PROBLEM.
WE OWE HER ONE, SO PATROLS ARE NOTHING.
SHINOZUKA'S HANDLING IT, ANYWAY.
z
z
z

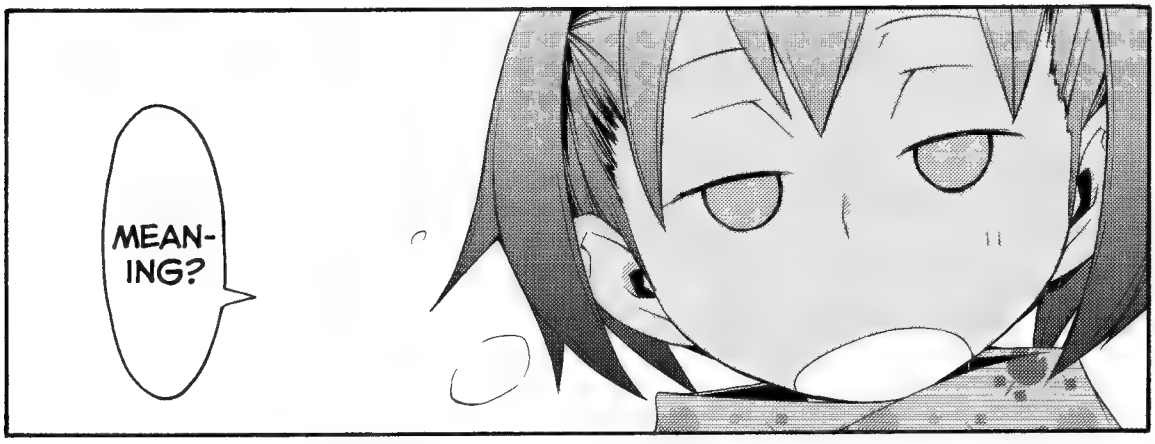

WHAT?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I COME EVERY MONTH.
WHY THE CHANGE OF HEART?
YES.
YOU HERE TO PAY YOUR RESPECTS, TOO?
...A LOT.
I OWE HER...
SHFF
I HAD NO IDEA.
SHE ...
HIME'S GRANDMOTHER, THE PREVIOUS MAYOR...
...TAUGHT ME EVERYTHING I KNOW ABOUT BEING A MAYOR.
Sign: Yarizakura Machi


I GET THE STRANGEST FEELING WHENEVER I COME HERE.
IT'S TRULY AN INDE-SCRIBABLE PLACE.
I... GUESS.
THERE'S NOTHING UNDER THE GROUND, AFTER ALL.

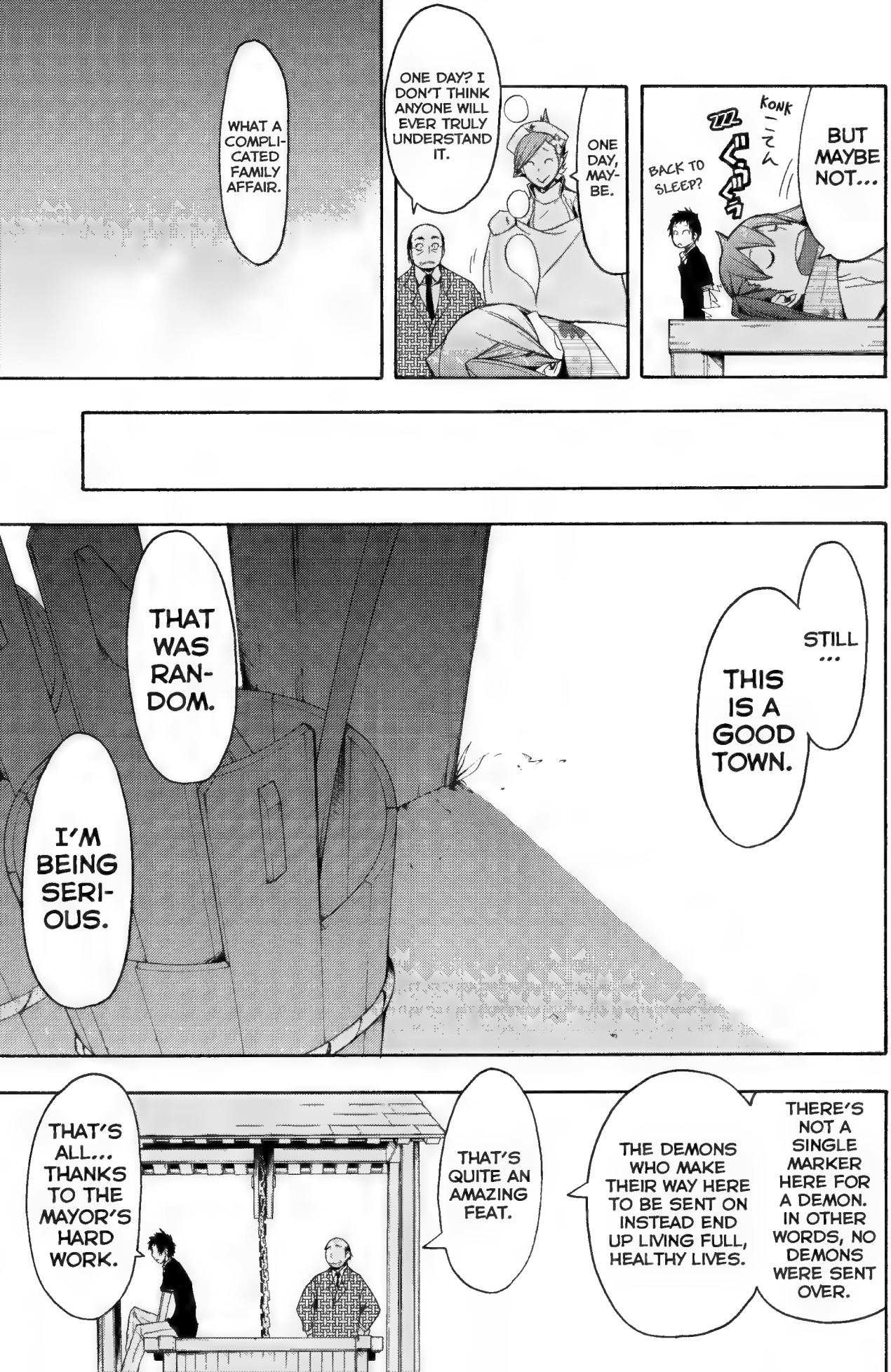

THE ONLY ONES WE HONOR HERE ARE THE FALLEN ...
...WHO UNDER-WENT TUNING ...
PRE-VIOUS MAYORS ...
AND ...
...THE HIIZUMI CLAN.


THE SKIP-PING STONE RITUAL, HUH?
THE THING'S SO COMPLICAT-ED!
JUST THINK OF THE SEA-SONS.
WHEN THE FIRST SON OF A HIIZUMI HAS THE NAME NATSU OR FUYU, THEY'RE SENT ON...
...BY THEIR PREDECES-SORS, WHO BEAR THE NAME HARU OR AKI.
SHE'S AWAKE.
むく
HUP
むにゃ
HWAH

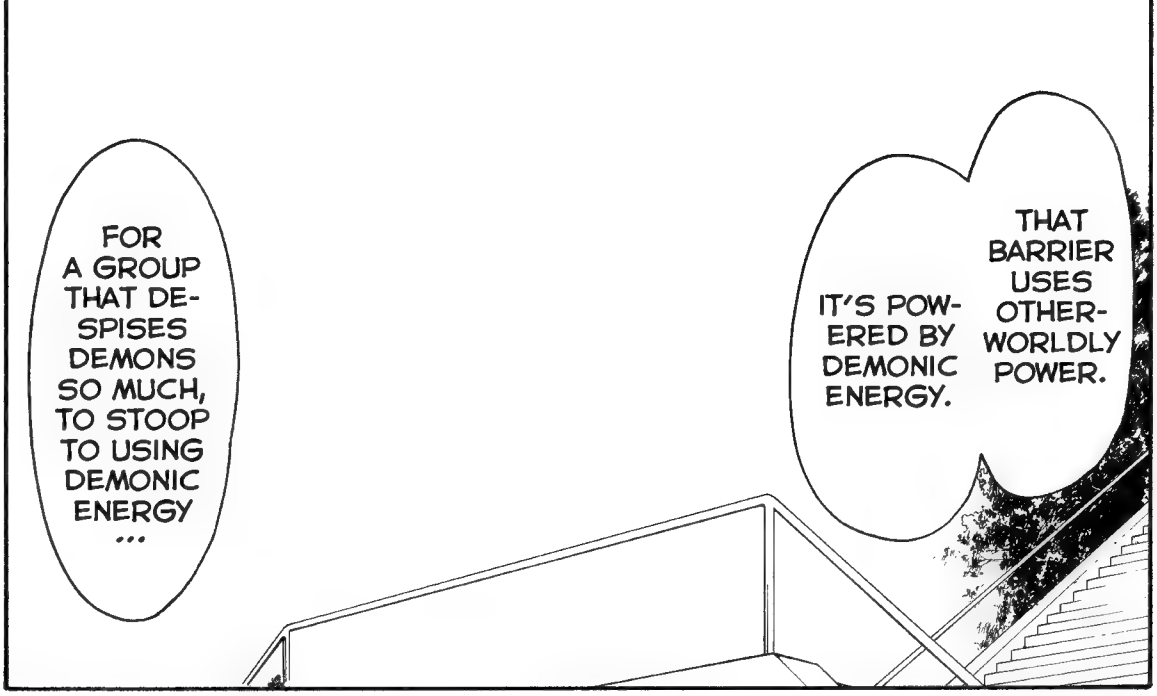

AKINA-NIISAMA, DOES THAT MEAN ...
IF I EVER HAVE A GRANDSON, HIS NAME WILL BE HARU. AND WHEN HE TURNS ONE, I'LL HAVE TO PERFORM TURNING ON MY SON, WHOSE NAME WILL BE FUYU.
I'M TRYING TO AVOID THAT, OF COURSE.
BUT RE-GARD-LESS ...
THOSE WHO WIELD POWER WILL EVENTUALLY BREAK DOWN FROM IT.
SO ONE OF OUR DUTIES IS TO SEND OVER OUR PREDE-CESSORS.


MEAN-ING?

THE ONE WHO PERFORMED TUNING ON MY GRANDFATHER AND SENT HIM ON...
...WAS ME.
I SEE.
I THINK I GET IT...

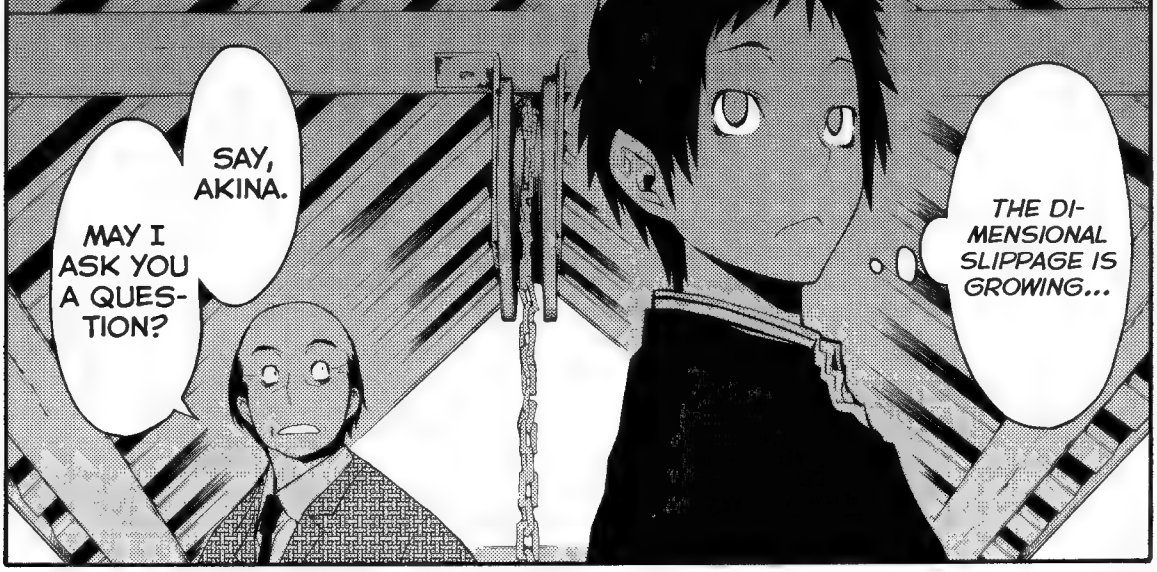

WHAT A COMPLI-CATED FAMILY AFFAIR.
ONE DAY? I DON'T THINK ANYONE WILL EVER TRULY UNDERSTAND IT.
ONE DAY, MAY-BE.
BUT MAYBE NOT...
KONK
ZZZ
BACK TO SLEEP?
STILL ...
THIS IS A GOOD TOWN.
THAT WAS RAN-DOM.
I'M BEING SERI-OUS.
THERE'S NOT A SINGLE MARKER HERE FOR A DEMON. IN OTHER WORDS, NO DEMONS WERE SENT OVER.
THE DEMONS WHO MAKE THEIR WAY HERE TO BE SENT ON INSTEAD END UP LIVING FULL, HEALTHY LIVES.
THAT'S QUITE AN AMAZING FEAT.
THAT'S ALL... THANKS TO THE MAYOR'S HARD WORK.

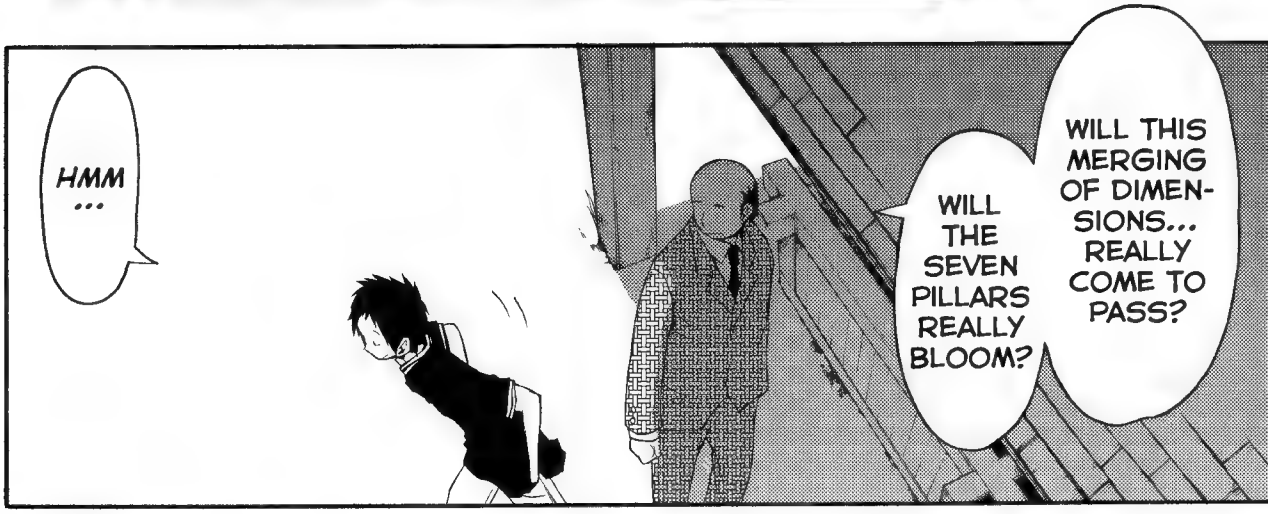
HIME'S ALWAYS GOING ON ABOUT HOW THE TOWN...
...NEEDS TO BE GOOD TO BOTH HUMANS AND DEMONS ALIKE.
HRM... INDEED.
AND YET YOU TRIED TO MESS ALL THAT UP, DIDN'T YOU?
IT'S FINE. HE WAS BEING TRICKED, AFTER ALL.
MRGH. WELL, YOU SEE...
I HEARD THE ANTI-DEMON BARRIER...
...WAS CONSTRUCTED BY THE SENATE.
OH, YES.
IT'S EXISTED FOR A LONG TIME.
THE TOWNS AROUND SAKURASHIN HAVE KEPT IT UP THROUGH THE GENERATIONS, BUT EVEN I KNOW A LITTLE ABOUT IT.
I HEARD FROM MY GRANDMA THAT IT WAS USED LONG, LONG AGO, TOO.
OH?
HMM.
IT STILL DOESN'T SIT RIGHT WITH ME, THOUGH.
THE SENATE...
...WAS THE HEAD OF THE ANTI-DEMON SIDE.
YES, THAT'S WHY THEY CONSTRUCTED THE BARRIER.
HMM...


THAT BARRIER USES OTHER-WORLDLY POWER.
IT'S POW-ERED BY DEMONIC ENERGY.
FOR A GROUP THAT DE-SPISES DEMONS SO MUCH, TO STOOP TO USING DEMONIC ENERGY ...

THEY MUST HAVE BEEN TRULY DES-PER-ATE, HUH?
HMM, YOU THINK?

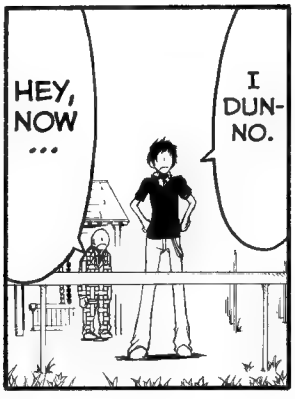
...


THE DIMENSIONAL SLIPPAGE IS GROWING...
SAY, AKINA.
MAY I ASK YOU A QUESTION?


WILL THIS MERGING OF DIMENSIONS... REALLY COME TO PASS?
WILL THE SEVEN PILLARS REALLY BLOOM?
HMM ...

AT HIS CORE, THOUGH, HE'S NOT THE TYPE TO LIE.
SO ONE DAY, IT'LL HAPPEN, I THINK.

ACCORDING TO YUHI-SAN, WE HAVE ABOUT A YEAR LEFT.
BUT HE CAN BE WRONG SOMETIMES.


HEY, NOW ...
I DUNNO.

HOW CAN I?
THERE'S NOT ENOUGH INFO.

I SEE.
IS THERE REAL-LY NO OTHER WAY?
THAT'S WHAT MY DOC-TOR SAYS.
YOU'LL BE DRAGGED TO THE OTHER WORLD IF YOU TRY THAT ON EVEN ONE OF THEM!
YOU CAN'T DO THAT!
THE ONLY WAY TO STOP IT IS TO PERFORM TUNING ON ALL OF THE SEVEN PILLARS AND BANISH THEM.
...BUT THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT THE SENATE WANTS.
WE COULD GATHER DEMONIC POWER UNDER THE BARRIER AND USE IT AS A MEDIUM TO TUNE THE SEVEN PILLARS ...
TWIST
I'D EVEN ASK HIM AT THIS POINT ...
I DUN-NO.
LIKE I SAID, THERE'S TOO LITTLE INFO.
THEN IS THERE ...
GEEZ.
...YES.
I CAN SEE THAT.
THE DEMONS WILL DIE FROM HAVING THEIR ENERGY SAPPED, SO IT'S NOT A PLAN WE CAN ACCEPT.

THEN SHALL I TELL YOU?
!
E-ENJIN?!
YO. HII-ZUMI BOY.
LET ME LAY IT OUT FOR YOU.
THE DIMEN-SIONAL MERGE ...
...WILL MOST CERTAINLY COME TO PASS.

LIKE WATER FILLING A TEA-CUP...
...GENTLY LAPPING AT THE EDGES ...
THE THREAT OF OVER-FLOWING EVER PRESENT.
THAT'S THE SIT-UATION.
EVENTU-ALLY THE WATER WILL SPILL, EVEN IF YOU LEAVE IT ALONE.
BUT I DON'T HAVE THE PA-TIENCE.
THAT'S WHY I DE-SIRE THE HIIZUMI POWER.
WELL, YOU CAN'T HAVE IT!
I SEE.
THEN ALL MY EFFORTS WERE IN VAIN.
I EVEN CROSSED WORLDS FOR YOU, YOU KNOW.
CLICK
CLICK
I GUESS ...
...MY ONLY OPTION IS TO DESTROY THIS BODY AND GO BACK TO MY WORLD, THEN.
SHUNK

STOP IT.
YOU'LL MAKE AO CRY.
...HMPH.
I AM THE ONLY ONE IN THIS WORLD WITH KNOW-LEDGE OF THE OTHER ONE, AFTER ALL.
AH, YES.
HEH HEH.
TELL ME WHAT YOU KNOW ABOUT THE DIMEN-SIONAL MERGE!
CUT THE CRAP!
ALL BECAUSE I WAS DE-SCENDED FROM HIIZUMI ENYOU OF THE BRANCH FAMILY.
SINCE I WAS FORCIBLY SENT THERE BY THE MAIN BRANCH.

TELL ME, AKINA.
...
GRAB
!
SST
YOU KNOW NOTHING ABOUT THE OTHER WORLD.
IS THIS MERGE REALLY SUCH A BAD THING?
ZZAK
GAH!
LET ME SHOW YOU!
THIS IS THE WORLD ...
...YOU NEVER TRIED TO UNDER-STAND!
ZZAK
ZZAK
OR DID YOU TELL OTHERS IT WAS HELL?
DID YOU IMAGINE IT WAS HEAVEN?
ZZAK
ZZAK
ZZAK
ZZAK
ZZAK
...ITS TRUE FORM INTO YOUR BRAIN!
I'LL BURN ...

DID YOU ...
...GET A GOOD LOOK?
SLUMP
ガク
GUH!
HUH?
AKI-NA-CHIN!
DID YOU ?!
ガク SHIVER
ガク SHIVER
THAT'S RIGHT!
IT'S NOTH-ING...
...BUT PURE HA-TRED!

WHAT THE HELL... DID YOU SHOW ME?
I WANTED YOU IN PARTIC-ULAR TO KNOW THE FULL EXTENT...
...OF MY AN-CES-TORS' HA-TRED!
GUH!
FWUMP
AKI-NA!
NOW...
ZZAK
CREAAAK

I SHALL TAKE YOUR MAIN BRANCH BODY.
KRRSH
A-AKI-NA!
TP
とんっ
ZZAK
WHAT'RE YOU DOING TO HIM, YOU CAT-EARED FREAK?
!
BUTT OUT.
YOU POWER-LESS HUMAN TRASH.

FWUMP
...
STAY ...
BAM
STAY QUIET AND YOU MIGHT LIVE...
SNAP
OH?
STAY OFF THE MEMORIAL!
HAVE YOU NO RESPECT?!
ZZAK
YOUR FOOLISH SENSE OF JUSTICE WILL BE YOUR UNDOING ...
...OLD MAN.
WHUD
WHAM

WILL YOU KIDS PIPE DOWN?
...!
TH-THE SEN-ATE ?!
BUT WHY ...
...
HMPH.
SHFF
WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME COMING BY ONCE A MONTH ...
...TO VISIT SOMEONE WHO HELPED ME PROTECT THIS TOWN?
MAKI-HARU, MY DEAR FRIEND ...

NO NEED TO THANK ME.
HMPH.
...THE ANTI-DEMON BARRIER, HAVE I?
I STILL HAVEN'T REPAID YOU FOR MESSING WITH...
FOX.
IF YOU'VE GOT THE GUTS, THEN BRING IT.
HEH!
I WAS HOPING YOU'D ENJOY WHAT I'D COOKED UP.
I SEE.
YOU CAN'T HOPE TO...
...POW-ERLESS HUMANS.
YOU'RE ALL...
SHUP

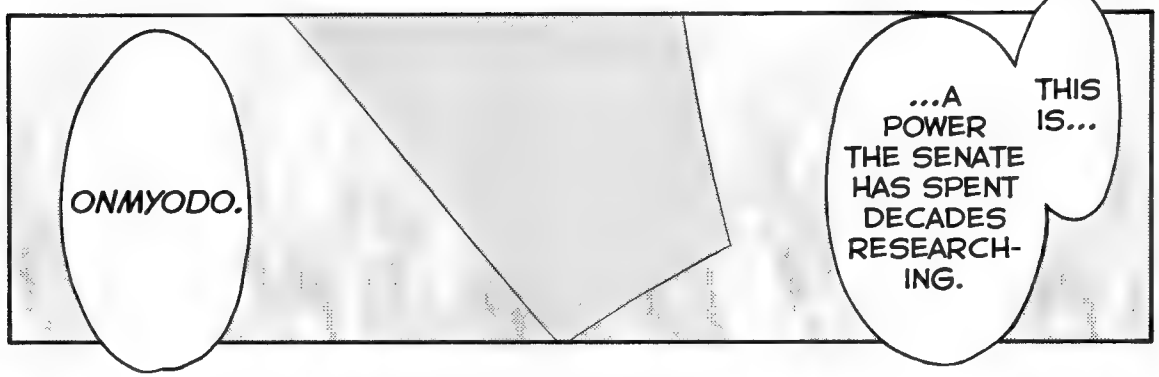
...STOP ME–
PLINK
...IS THAT ALL?
COME NOW.
PLINK
PLINK
PLINK
YOU HAV-EN'T ...
...MOVED ME AN INCH YET.
SHKK

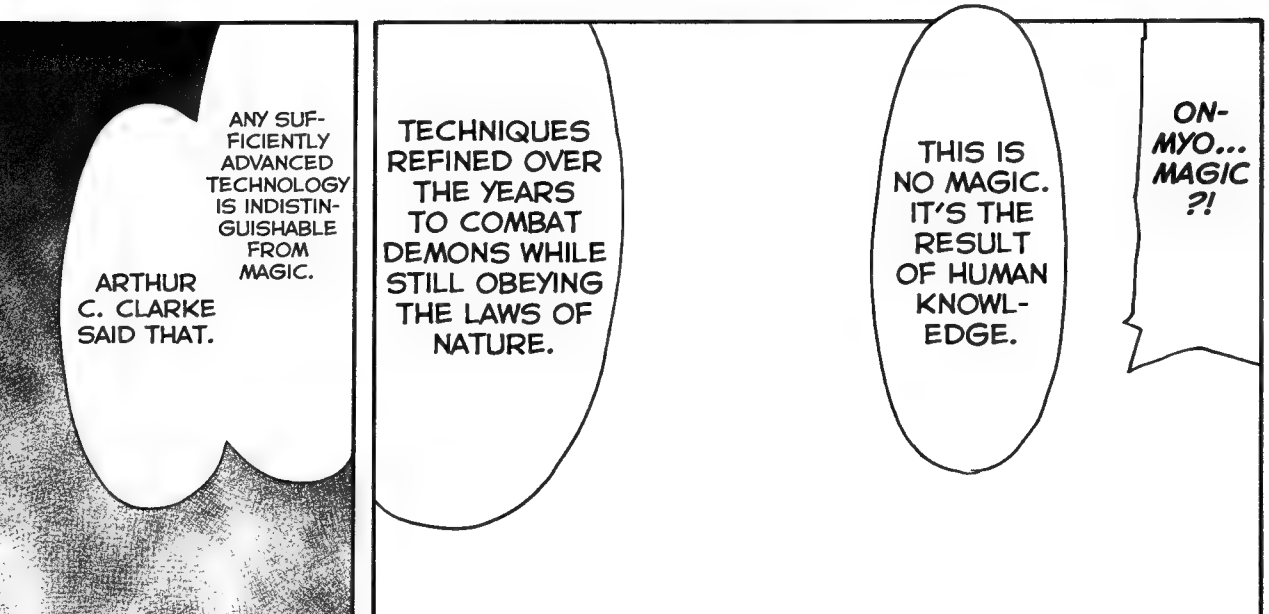
GOTCHA!
GRAB
!
VWMP
FRAN-
KEN
...
WHAM
...STEIN-
ER!

AN ...
ZZZT
ZZZT
RMB
RMB
RMB
RMB
AN ANTI-DE-MON... BARRI-ER?!
WHAM
!
SEE THAT?
THAT'S MY FAMILY'S NAMESAKE, THE FRAN-KENSTEIN-ER!
WHEW, SCARY.
SOME-HOW, I DOUBT THAT...
NOT THAT IT MAT-TERS.
GUH!
YOU ...

GOOD GRIEF.
I SO DESPISE ROUGH-NESS.

DE-MON ARTS ?!
WITH JUST THAT ONE TALIS-MAN?
I CAN MANAGE THIS MUCH AT CLOSE RANGE.
AND IT'S NOT DEMON ARTS.


THIS IS...
...A POWER THE SENATE HAS SPENT DECADES RESEARCH-ING.
ONMYODO.

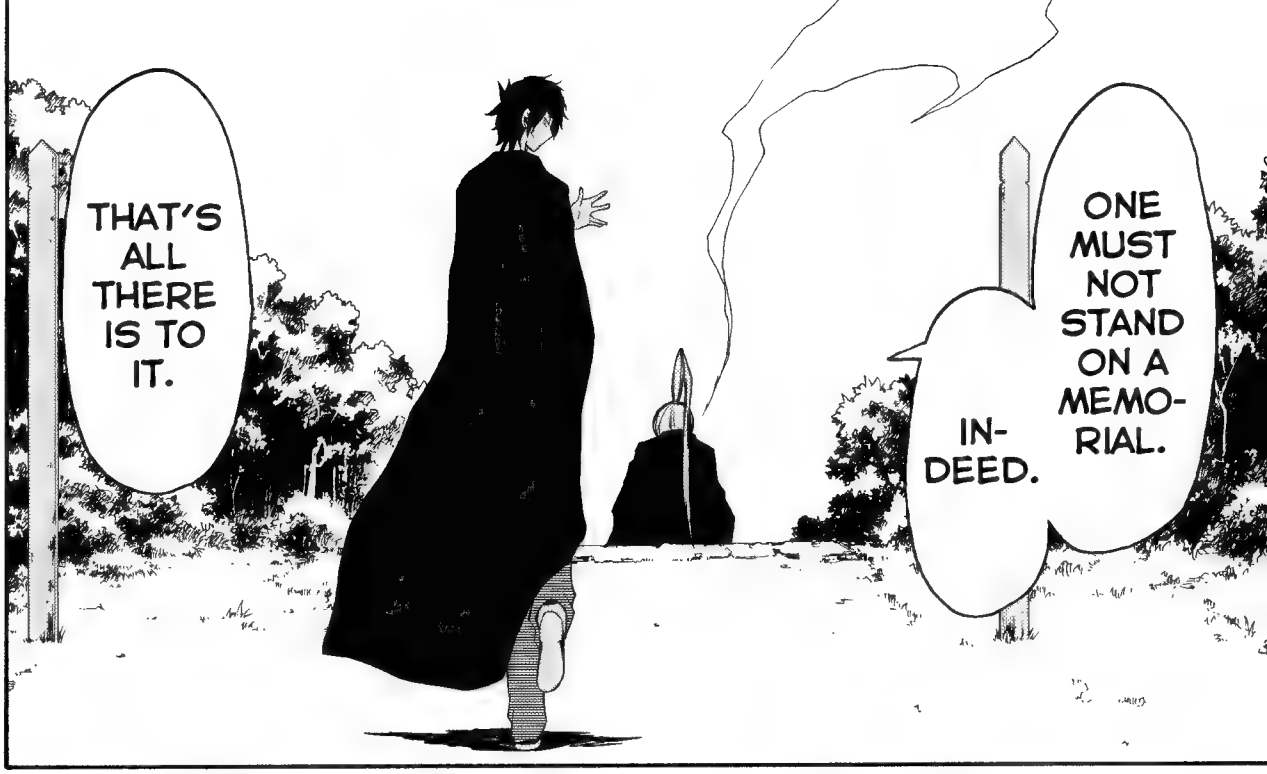

ON-MYO... MAGIC ?!
THIS IS NO MAGIC. IT'S THE RESULT OF HUMAN KNOWL-EDGE.
TECHNIQUES REFINED OVER THE YEARS TO COMBAT DEMONS WHILE STILL OBEYING THE LAWS OF NATURE.
ANY SUF-FICIENTLY ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY IS INDISTIN-GUISHABLE FROM MAGIC.
ARTHUR C. CLARKE SAID THAT.

...A FULLY FLEDGED SCIENCE.
ONMYO-DO IS...
...IT IS ALWAYS HUMAN WISDOM ...
...THAT MOVES THE AGES.
NO MATTER HOW MUCH DEMONS TRY TO BULLY THEIR WAY TO THE TOP...
ZAI
TCH!
DAMN ...

...YOU ALL!
BAM
!
WHOA!
HE'S STRONGER THAN I THOUGHT.
YEESH.
YOU PEOPLE ...
...ACT NOTHING LIKE HUMANS!
THEY CALL THAT MONSTROUS, YOU KNOW!
...
RATTLE
THAT'S A GIVEN.
FLASH
IN ORDER TO KEEP UP WITH SOMEONE LIKE YOU ...
!

...WE CAN'T FOOLISHLY CLING TO OUR HUMANITY!
ZZAK
WE'RE ALL MONSTERS!
GOT THAT?
YES, I AGREE.
WAFT
I WILL NEED TO BE FULLY PREPARED NEXT TIME.

SST
OLD MAN IYO!
SHI-DARE-SAN!
I'M IN NO MOOD TO PRAY.
LET'S GO, SHI-DARE.
YOU OKAY?
OW ...
I OWE YOU.
UM ...
MAKE NO MIS-TAKE.
WE HAVE NO INTEN-TION OF TAKING SIDES WITH YOUR TOWN.
...
THE SENATE SIDES ...
...WITH HUMANS.

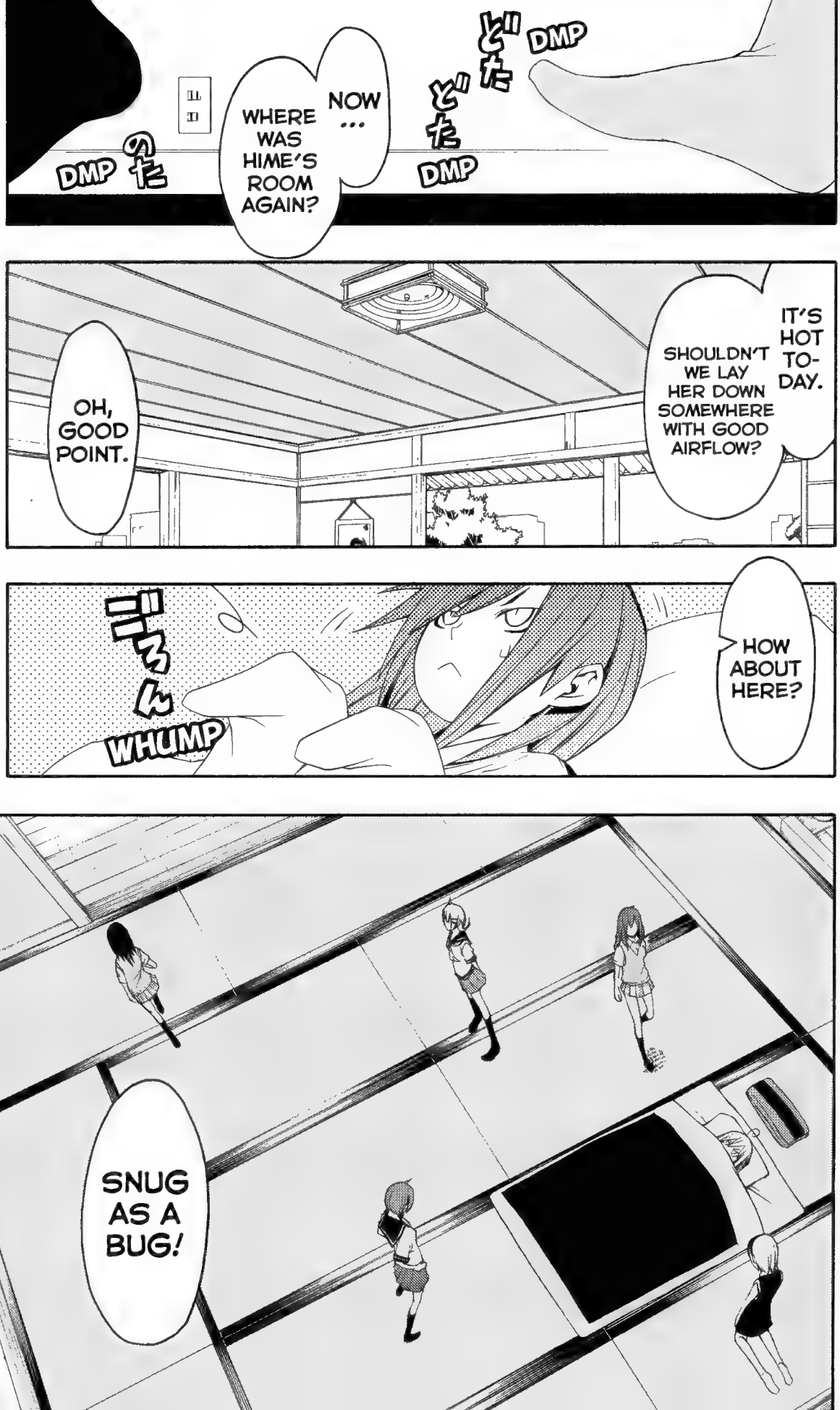

ONE MUST NOT STAND ON A MEMO-RIAL.
IN-DEED.
THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT.

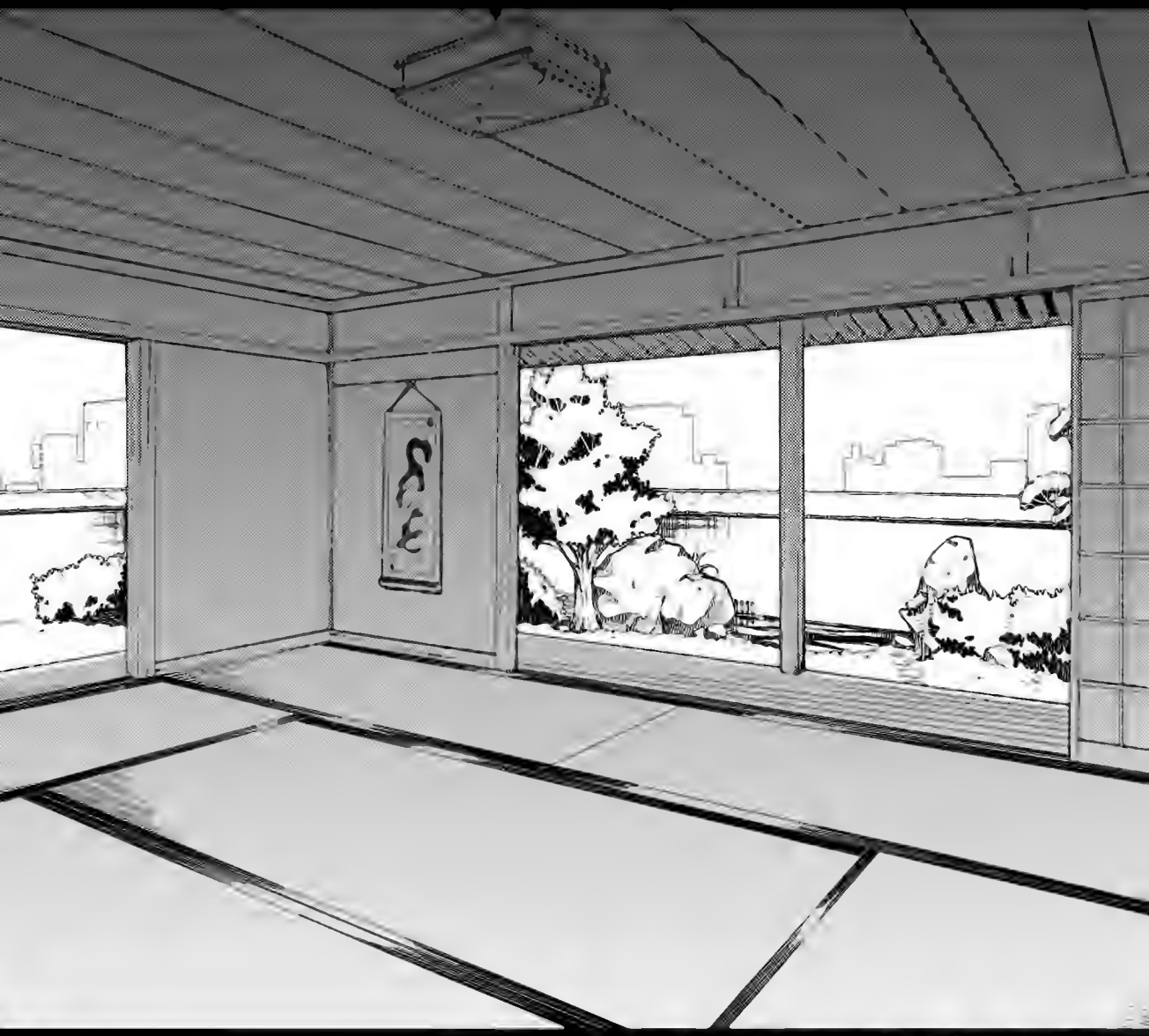
WHAT?
ZZT
OH ...
MY HEAD FEELS KINDA FUZZY.
?
THEN CUT YOUR HAIR.

LOOM
I SEE.
I SEE.
ZZT
SO THAT'S HOW IT WORKS.
SIMPLE ENOUGH.
WHEN AT AN ADVANTAGE, HUMANS HAVE A BAD HABIT...
...OF LETTING THEIR SECRETS SLIP.
THE HII-ZUMI POW-ER...
...AND THE SCI-ENTIFIC THEO-RIES OF ONMYOU.
GWIP
NOT A BAD COMBINA-TION.

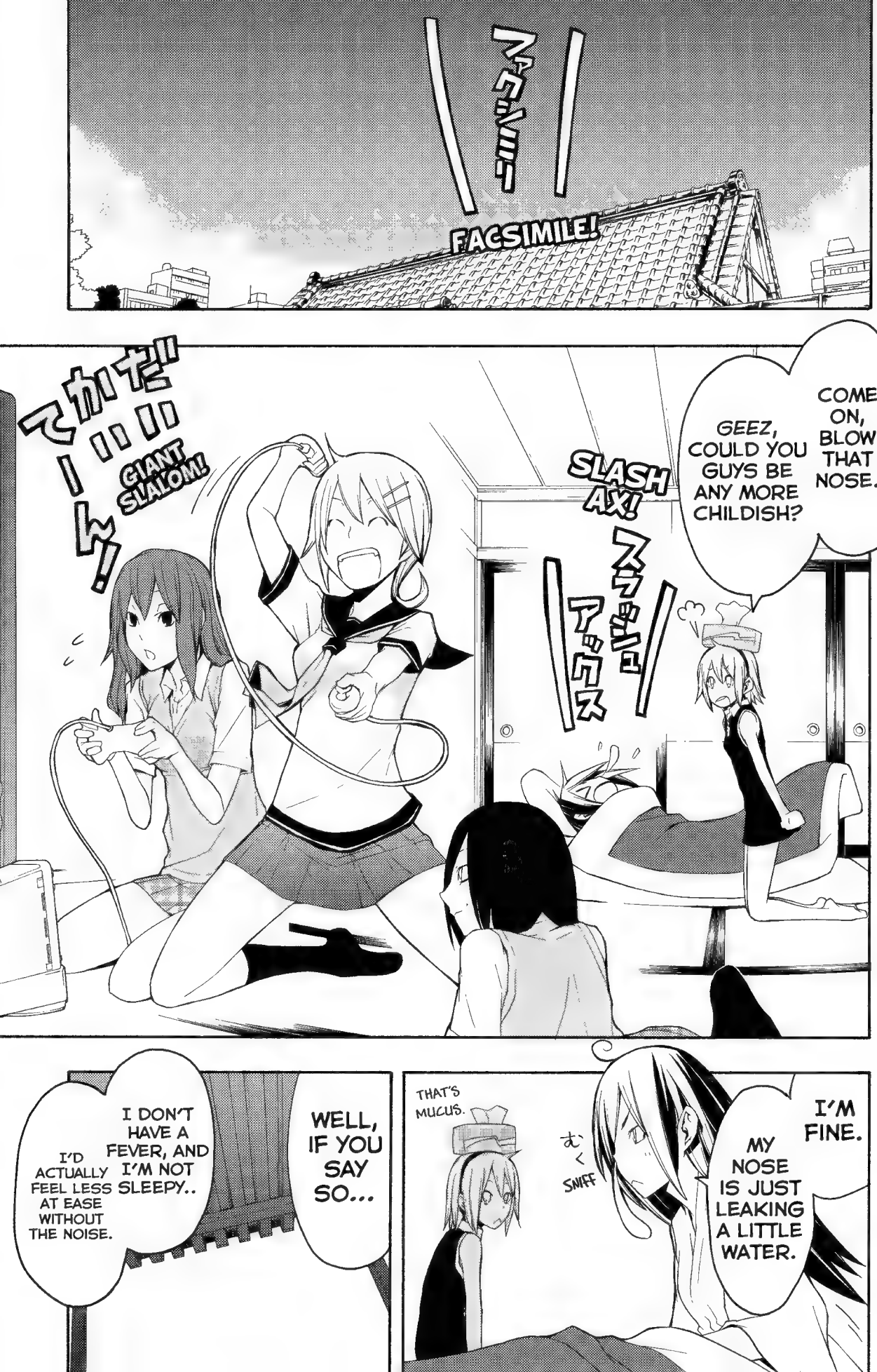
WHY NOT?
I'LL TAKE THEM BOTH.
42ND NIGHT ONE OF SIX (PART THREE) END

MAYBE
I SHOULD
CUT IT...


DMP
どたどた
DMP
どたどた
DMP
NOW...
WHERE WAS HIME'S ROOM AGAIN?
IT'S HOT TO-DAY.
SHOULDN'T WE LAY HER DOWN SOMEWHERE WITH GOOD AIRFLOW?
OH, GOOD POINT.
HOW ABOUT HERE?
ごろん
WHUMP
SNUG AS A BUG!



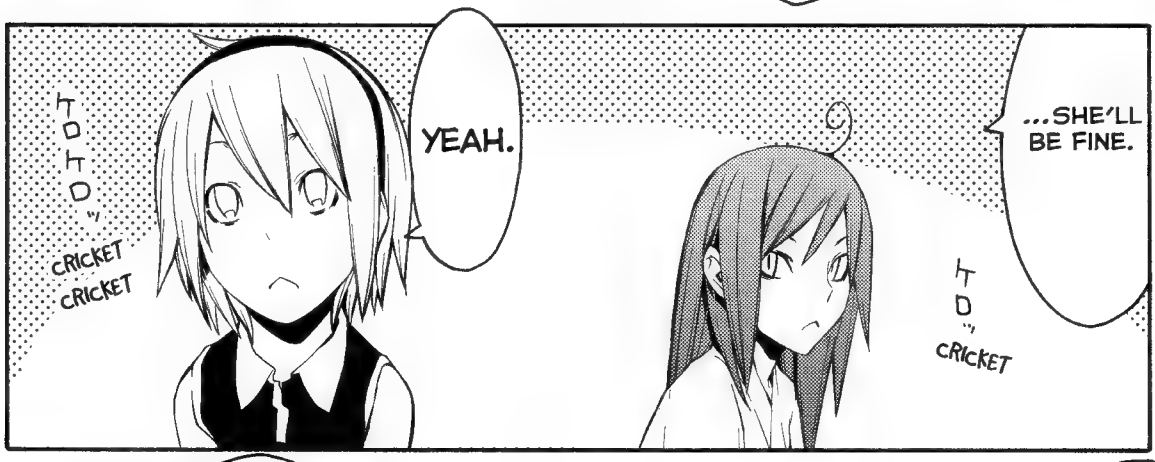
43RD NIGHT ONE OF SIX (EPILOGUE)


ファクシミリ
FACSIMILE!
てかだーーーん!
GIANT SLALOM!
スラッシュアックス
SLASH AX!
COME ON, BLOW THAT NOSE.
GEEZ, COULD YOU GUYS BE ANY MORE CHILDISH?
I'M FINE.
MY NOSE IS JUST LEAKING A LITTLE WATER.
むく
SNIFF
THAT'S MUCUS.
WELL, IF YOU SAY SO...
I DON'T HAVE A FEVER, AND I'M NOT SLEEPY..
I'D ACTUALLY FEEL LESS AT EASE WITHOUT THE NOISE.

YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY... "A PRIEST SCOOPING FOR WHITE BEADS."
...
UH-HUH ...
AH!
WHO SAID YOU COULD GET UP, HIME?
HOLD HER DOWN, AO!
KAAAY.
YOU'RE TOO HEAVY!
STILL SICK
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
THE STORE.
THE FRIDGE IS EMPTY.
OH, SHOULD I GO, THEN?
I COULD TAKE THE LOUD ONES WITH ME...
IT'S COOL.
TMP
TMP
HUP!
SHOOP

すたっ TMP
HO!
YOU'RE IN CHARGE, AO!
I'LL BE BACK IN A FLASH!
LIKE HIME DOES!
BE CARE-FUL!
WHEEE
DON'T DO ANY-THING CRAZY.
I'LL BE FINE!
WHOA...
HEY! I'M DO-ING IT!
OOP!
WHOA...
すた TP
HUP!
ぽん TP

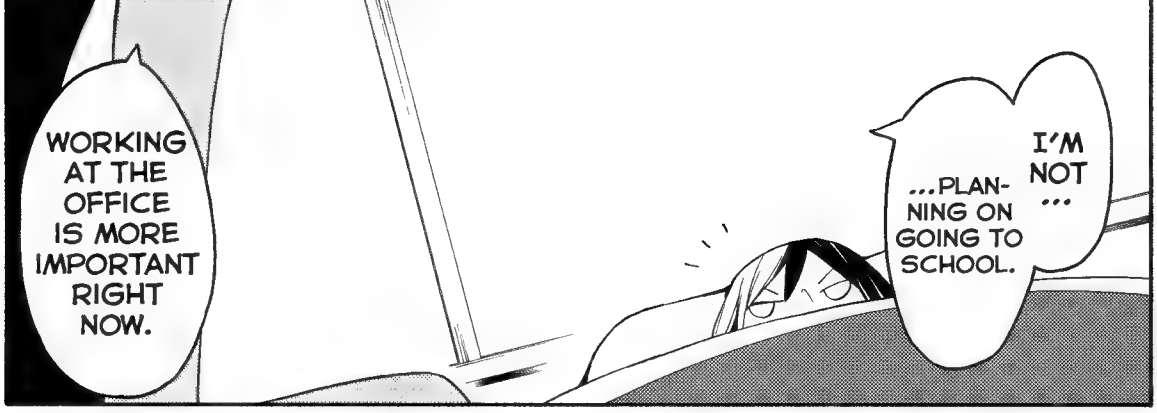
WHOA!
SHE FELL! KOTO-HA-CHAN FELL!
SHOCK
ヒュ〜 WHOOP
NO WAY!
STOP RIGHT...
ず〜 SLIP
WAUGH!
WOOO
WHA... OH!
WHAT'RE THOSE TWO UP TO—
OH?!

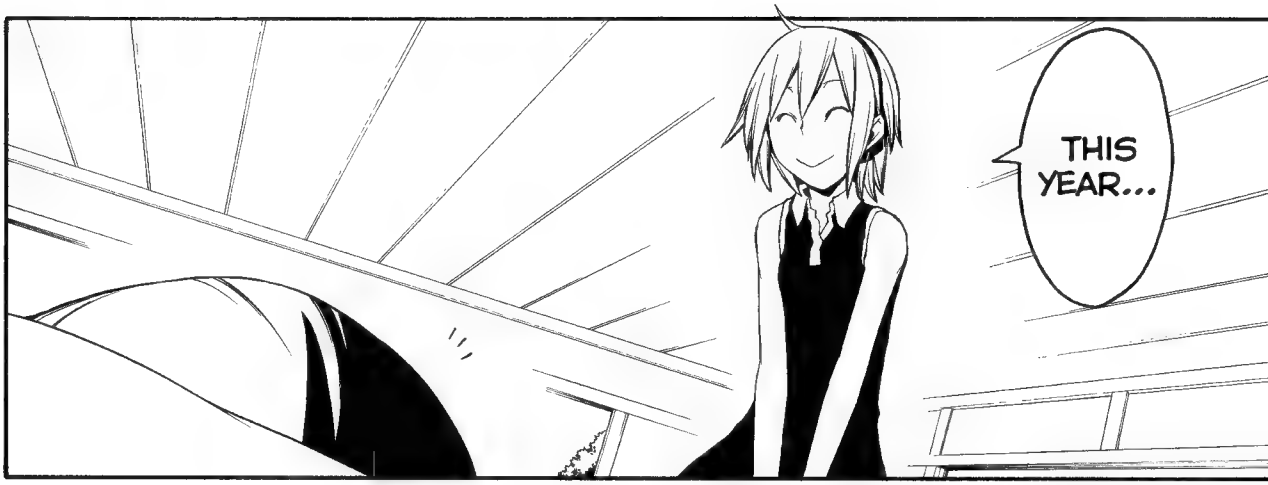

YEAH.
トロトロ〜 CRICKET CRICKET
...SHE'LL BE FINE.
トロ〜 CRICKET

IS SHE TALKING ABOUT LA-CROSSE? YOU STILL PLAY?
YEAH. I WORK ON THE WEEKDAYS, SO ONLY ON SATUR-DAYS.
I WISH I COULD PLAY EVERY DAY, THOUGH.
HUH.

WORRY ABOUT YOUR-SELF, HIME.
YOU'VE GOT A CLUB MEETING TOMOR-ROW.
TH-THAT'S RIGHT!
I'VE GOTTA GET BET-TER!
もぞ〜 SHFF
HUH?

CLUBS SOUND LIKE FUN, THOUGH.
...
TROMP
TROMP
どた
ばた
...
NAW, IT'S FINE! HIME IS NATURALLY BAD AT BALL GAMES.
ISN'T THAT KIND OF CHEATING, SINCE HIME'S SO NATURALLY ATHLETIC?
BUT ...
YOU SURE SHE SHOULD PLAY?
HUH?
HEY, AO. HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT GOING TO SCHOOL?
S-SORRY, SORRY.
NO WRESTLING!
HEY! HIME-CHAN NEEDS PEACE AND QUIET!
WHEE!
OOF!
ゴロゴロ
ROLL
ROLL
わー
WHEE
ME? I...
...


WORKING AT THE OFFICE IS MORE IMPORTANT RIGHT NOW.
I'M NOT ... ...PLANNING ON GOING TO SCHOOL.

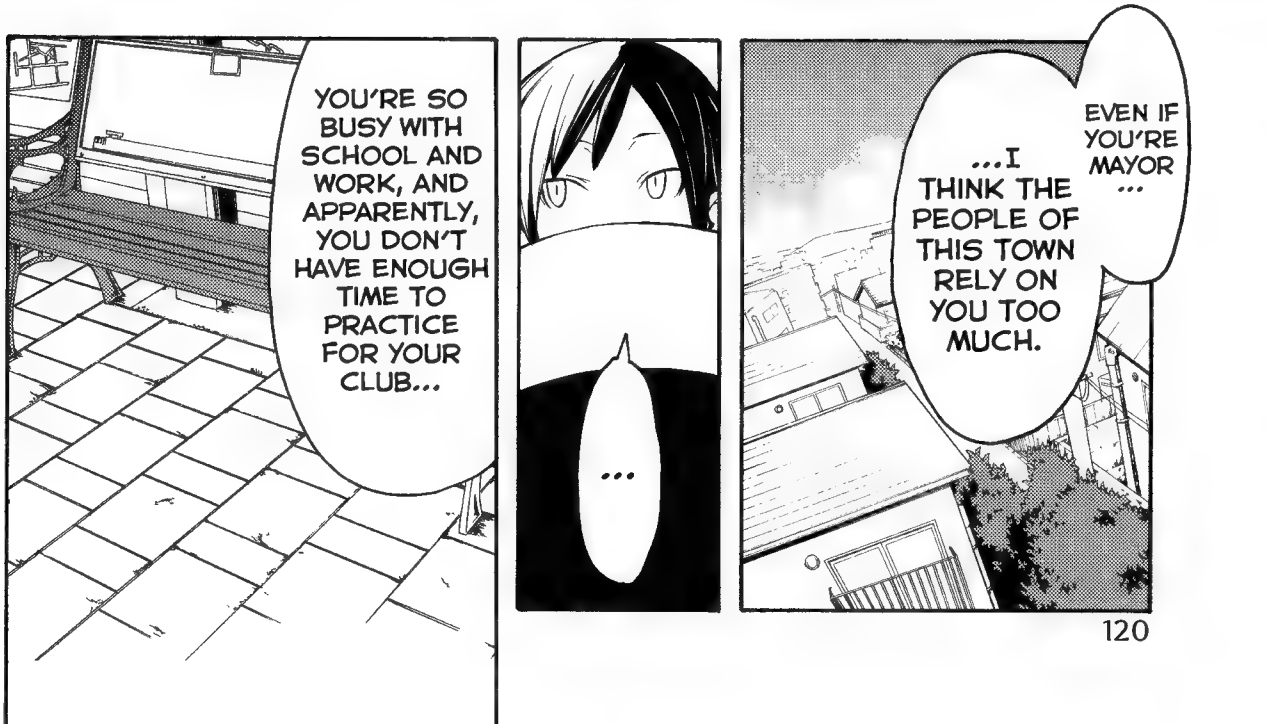

THIS YEAR...

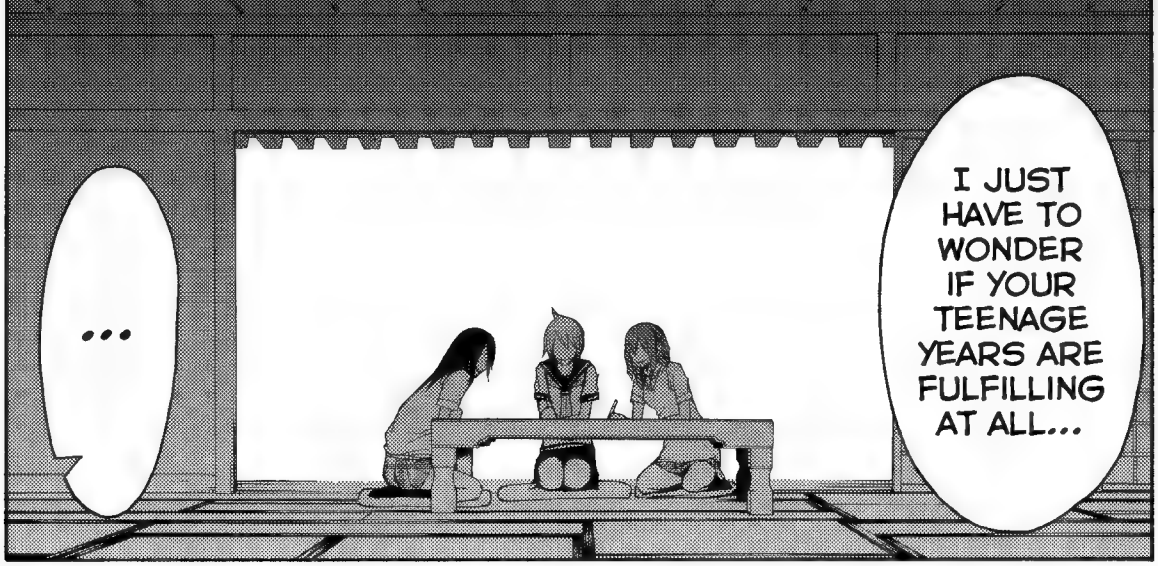
BUT I'D FEEL GUILTY JUST BEING A MOOCH.
YEAH. MY BROTHER TOLD AKINA-SAN TO LOOK AFTER ME BEFORE HE LEFT.

IS IT BECAUSE OF GIN, TOO?
I WANT TO HELP AKINA-SAN AS MUCH AS I CAN.
...THE TOWN AND THE OFFICE HAVE BEEN THROUGH SOME TRYING TIMES.

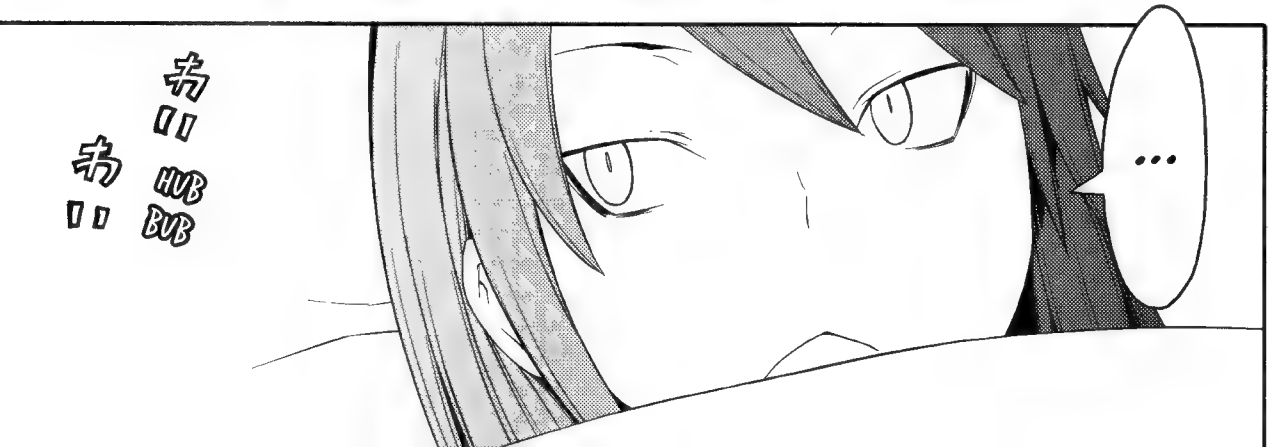
AKINA-SAN IS LIKE A BIG BROTHER TO ME, TOO.
SO IF I CAN BE OF ANY ASSIS-TANCE ...
I SEE.
SO WHEN THINGS WITH THE DIMEN-SIONS ARE SETTLED...
YEAH! THEN I'LL GO TO SCHOOL.
THE SAME ONE YOU GO TO.
AND ...
WHEN MY BROTHER COMES BACK...
...IT WOULD PROBABLY BE AWK-WARD FOR HIM TO BE IN THE SAME YEAR AS ME.
JUST KEEPING THINGS CONSIS-TENT!
I'M ACTUALLY PRETTY CACULATI-NG!
...I SEE.
ALL RIGHT, THEN.

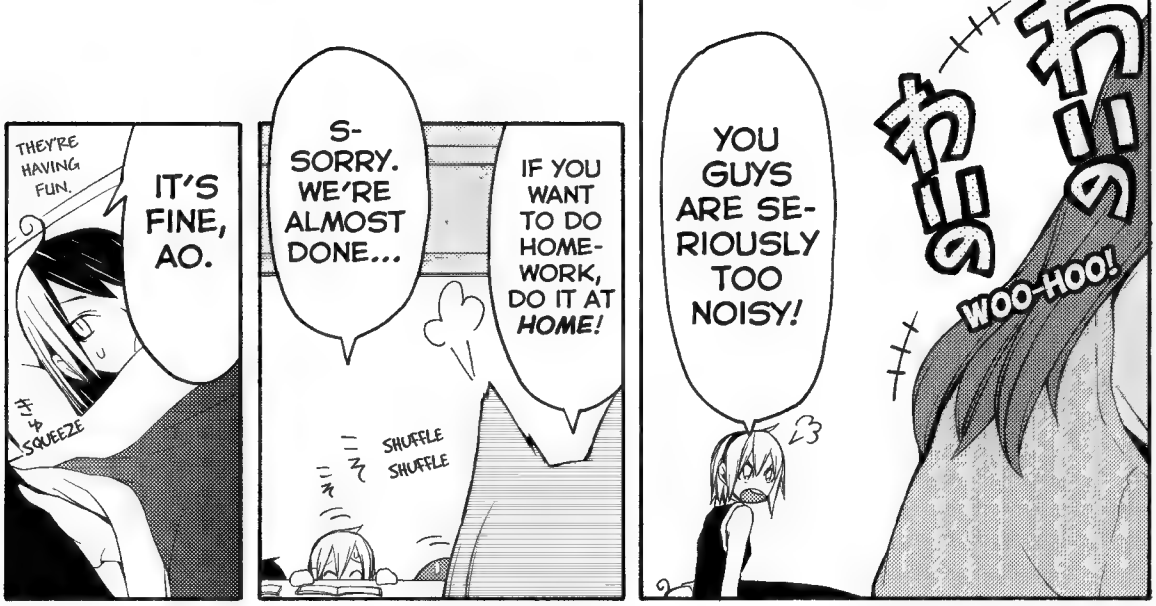
...
ALL RIGHT, THEN.
ME? WHY?!
...ABOUT YOU, HIME-CHAN.
I'M MORE WORRIED ...

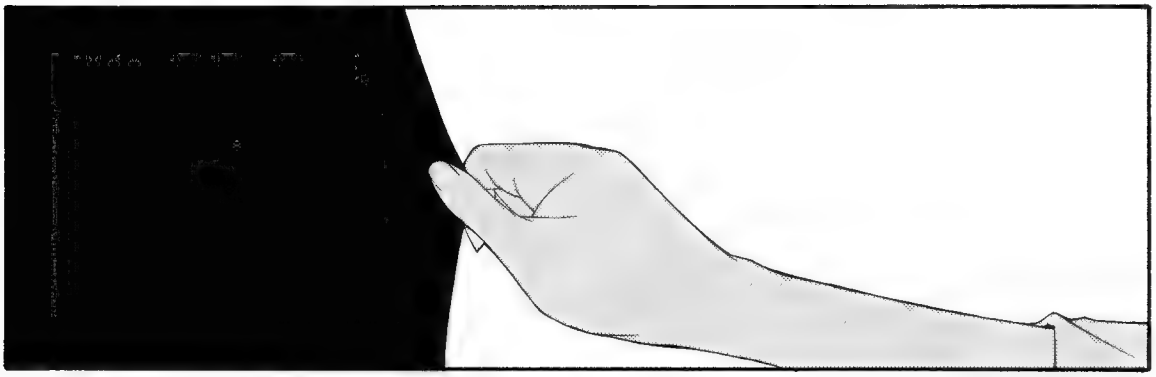

YOU'RE SO BUSY WITH SCHOOL AND WORK, AND APPARENTLY, YOU DON'T HAVE ENOUGH TIME TO PRACTICE FOR YOUR CLUB...
...
...I THINK THE PEOPLE OF THIS TOWN RELY ON YOU TOO MUCH.
EVEN IF YOU'RE MAYOR ...

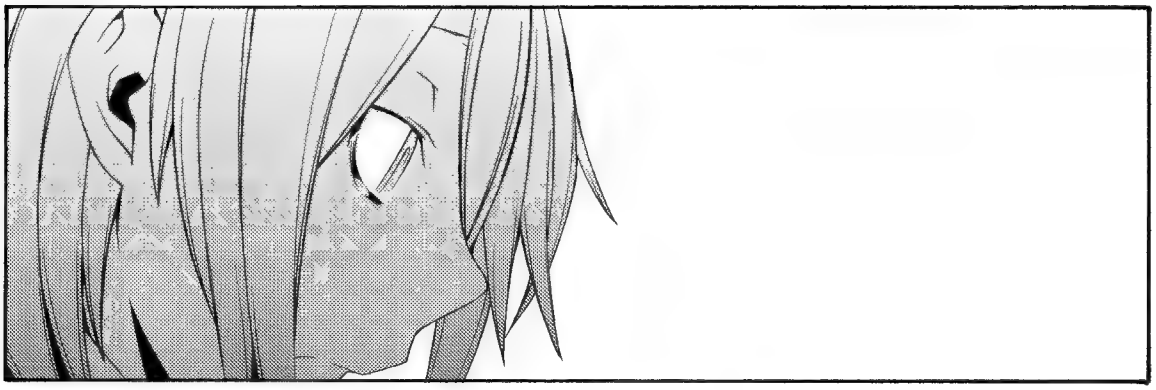

...
I JUST HAVE TO WONDER IF YOUR TEENAGE YEARS ARE FULFILLING AT ALL...

...
HMM ...


...
ガ〜ガ〜 HUB BUB

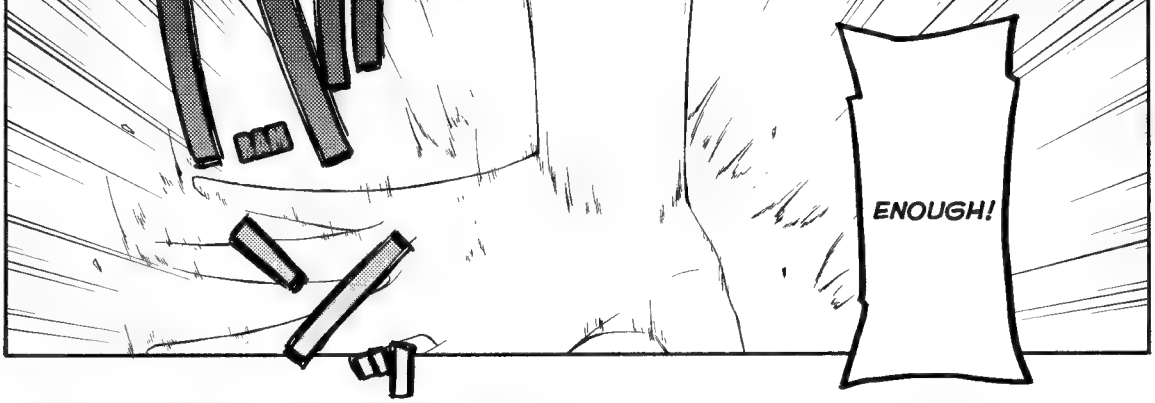

YOU GUYS ARE SERIOUSLY TOO NOISY!
おいの
おいの
WOO-HOO!
IF YOU WANT TO DO HOMEWORK, DO IT AT HOME!
S-SORRY. WE'RE ALMOST DONE...
SHUFFLE SHUFFLE
IT'S FINE, AO.
THEY'RE HAVING FUN.
SQUEEZE





HIME-CHAN... YOUR ARMS ARE AS THIN AS MINE.
PRESS もぎ"
PRESS もぎ"
もぎ" PRESS

もき PRESS
SUCH ...
...THIN ARMS.
YOU CAN'T EVEN AVOID GETTING HURT.
PRESS もき もき... PRESS
わヤ YAMMER
わヤ YAMMER
AO'S SUCH A...
...NICE GIRL.
SNIFF ずー
DRIP ごほ DRIP ほ
YAMMER わい YAMMER わい
YOU'RE TOTALLY WRONG!
NUH-UH! THIS IS RIGHT!
!
YAMMER わい YAMMER わい


ENOUGH!

IF YOU CAN'T BE QUIET, THEN LEAVE!
HIME-CHAN DOESN'T GET MANY OPPORTU-NITIES TO REST!

AO GOT MAD...
THAT'S RARE.

Y-YEAH, WE WERE A LITTLE NOISY.
LET'S CLEAN UP.
...

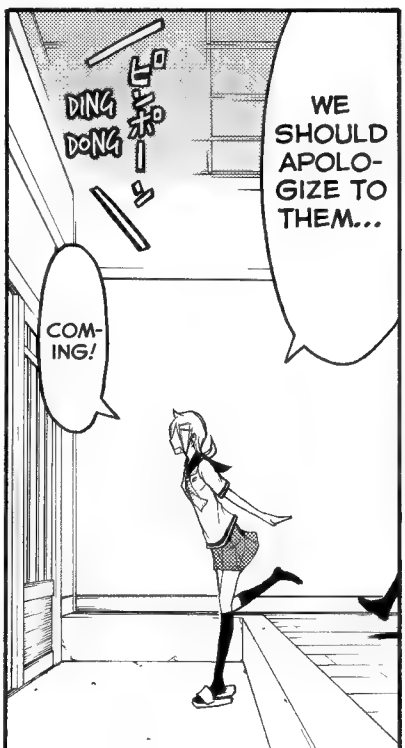
WHO COULD THAT BE?
I'LL GET IT.

ピンポーン
DING DONG
...

...SUCH A NICE GIRL.
PITTA
ぱた
ぱた
PATTA

ぱた
PATTA
ぱた
PATTA

ガラ
RATTLE
WHO IS IT ...
ラン
RATTLE
ラン
RATTLE

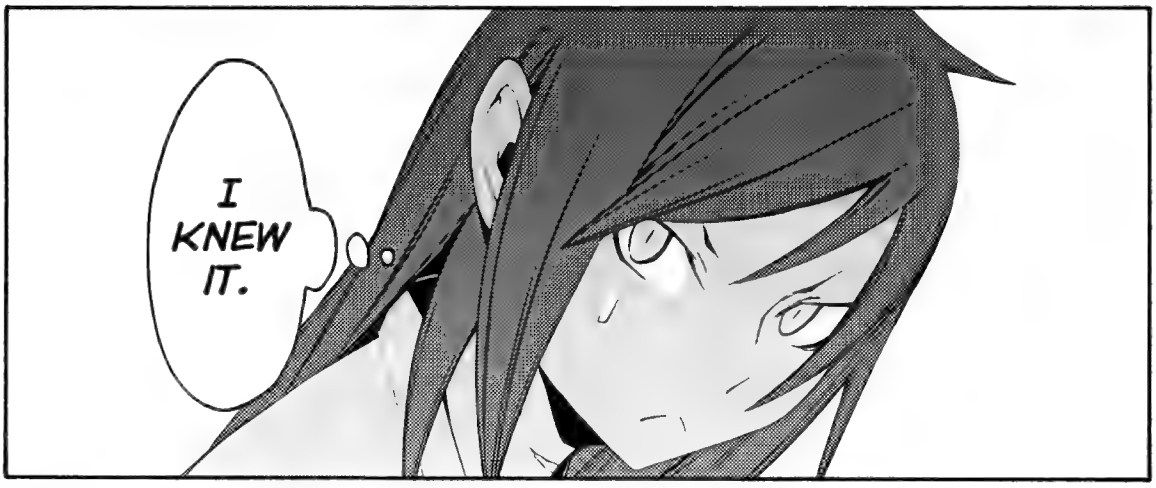

ピンポーン
DING DONG
COM-ING!
WE SHOULD APOLO-GIZE TO THEM...

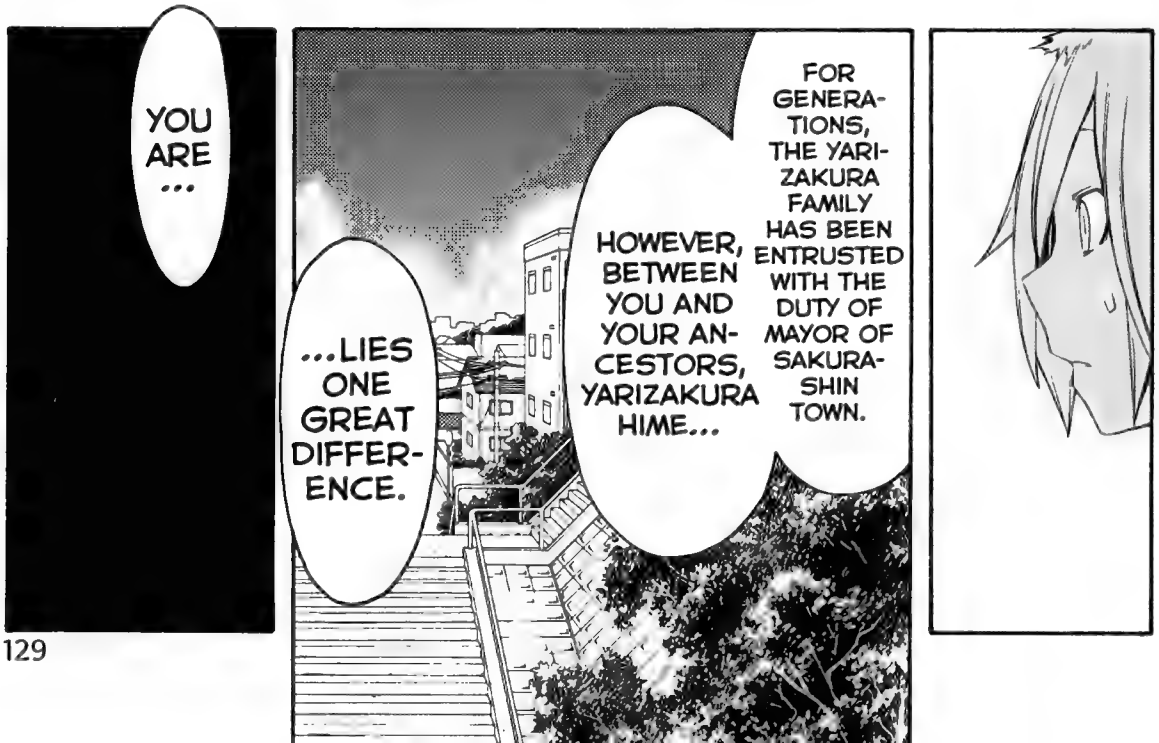
WE GOT KINDA CARRIED AWAY.
YEAH.
I FEEL BAD.

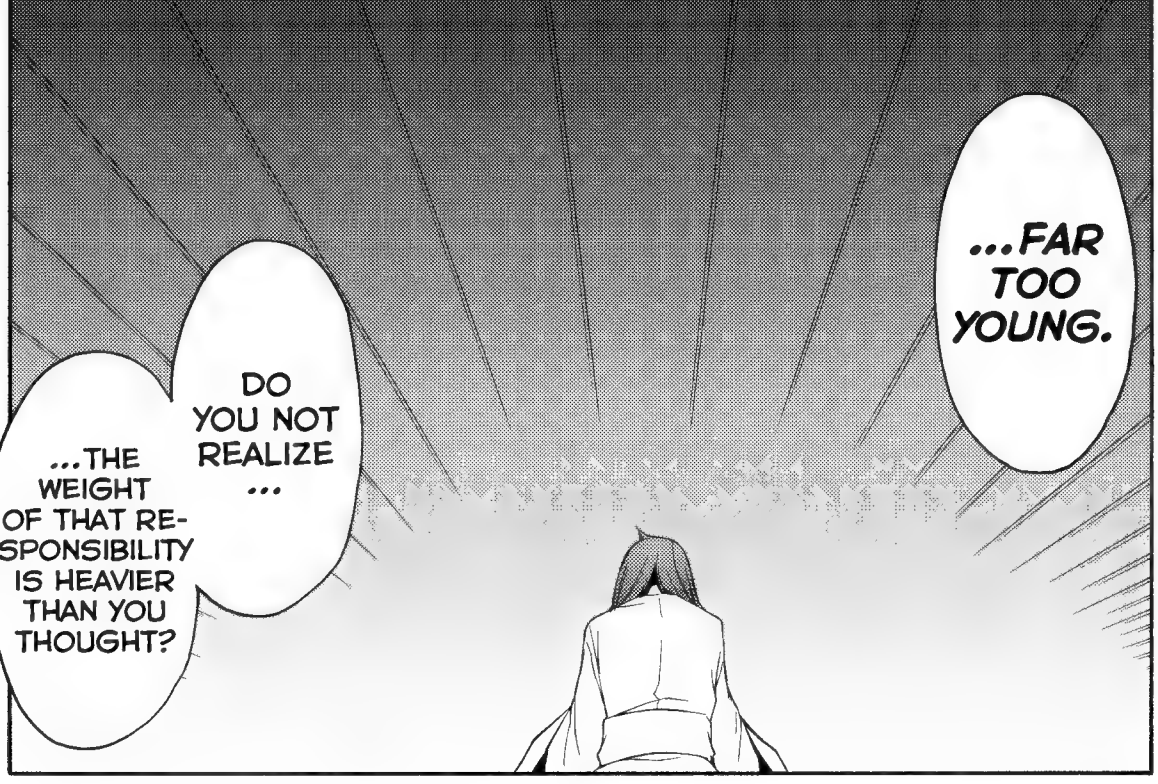
LOOM
GOOD DAY.
...OH.
ヒメへ
HIIIMEEE!
?

GOOD DAY.
VICE PRINCIPAL UZU!
HIME! MISTER UZU'S HERE TO SEE YOU!
PATTA
PATTA
G-GOOD DAY...
WELL, WELL.
OH, PLEASE. DON'T GET UP.
WHAT'S HE HERE FOR?
PSST
PSST
HE'S THE VICE PRINCI-PAL, BUT TO HIME, HE'S...
I HEARD YOU WERE UNWELL, SO...
...I BROUGHT YOU A GET-WELL PRESENT. PLEASE ACCEPT IT.
O-OH, HOW THOUGHT-FUL...

I AM HERE TODAY ...
...AS A MEMBER OF THE SENATE.

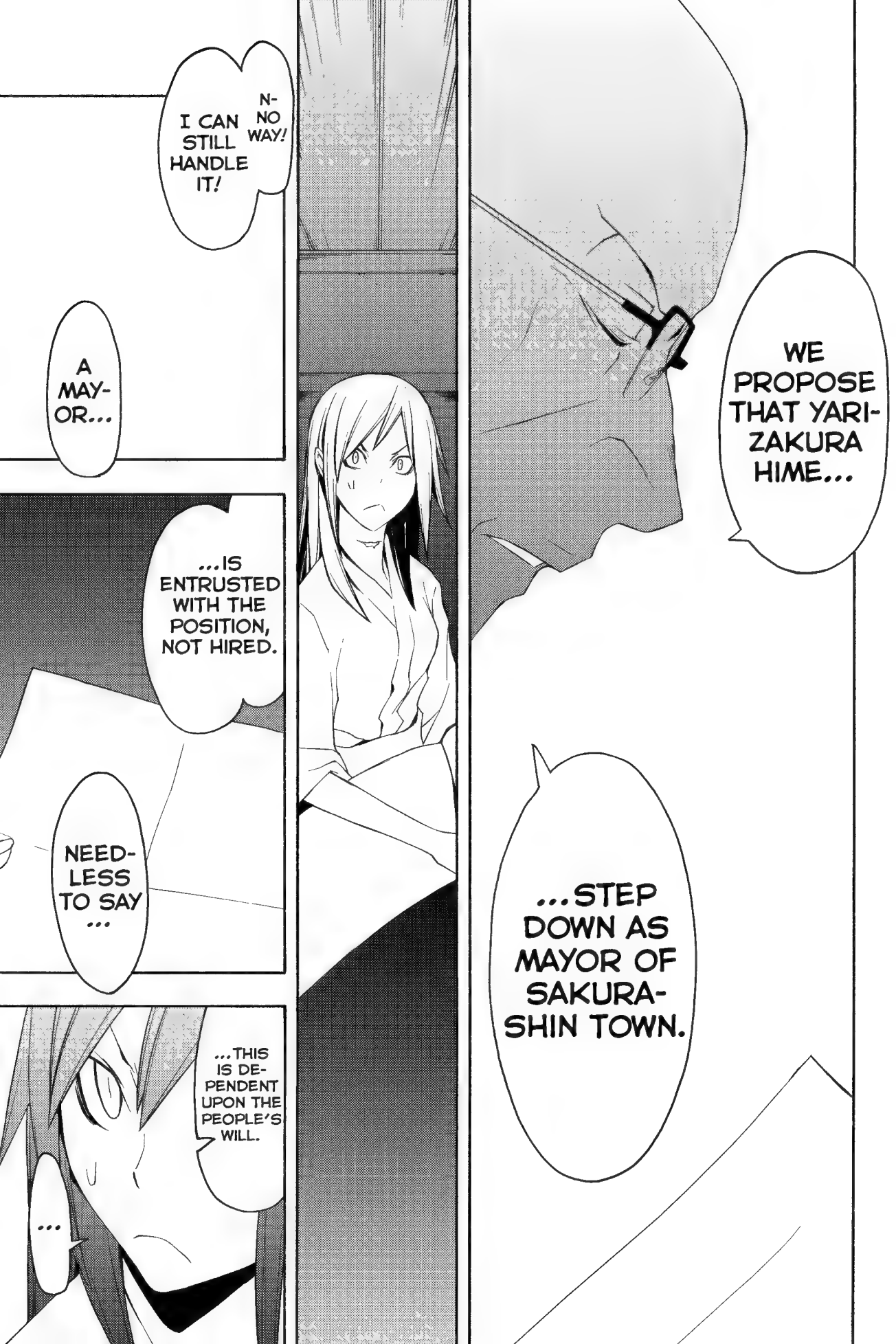

I KNEW IT.


YOU ARE ...
...LIES ONE GREAT DIFFERENCE.
HOWEVER, BETWEEN YOU AND YOUR ANCESTORS, YARIZAKURA HIME...
FOR GENERATIONS, THE YARIZAKURA FAMILY HAS BEEN ENTRUSTED WITH THE DUTY OF MAYOR OF SAKURASHIN TOWN.


...FAR TOO YOUNG.
DO YOU NOT REALIZE ...
...THE WEIGHT OF THAT RESPONSIBILITY IS HEAVIER THAN YOU THOUGHT?

...

I COME WITH A MESSAGE...
...FROM THE SENATE.
HIME-CHAN.
FACSIMILE!
TH-THIS IS NOTHING!
IT'S JUST A LITTLE SUMMER COLD ...
YOU MUST REALIZE YOU'RE PUSHING YOURSELF TOO HARD TO KEEP UP.


WE PROPOSE THAT YARI-ZAKURA HIME...
...STEP DOWN AS MAYOR OF SAKURA-SHIN TOWN.
N-NO WAY! I CAN STILL HANDLE IT!
A MAY-OR...
...IS ENTRUSTED WITH THE POSITION, NOT HIRED.
NEED-LESS TO SAY ...
...THIS IS DE-PENDENT UPON THE PEOPLE'S WILL.
...

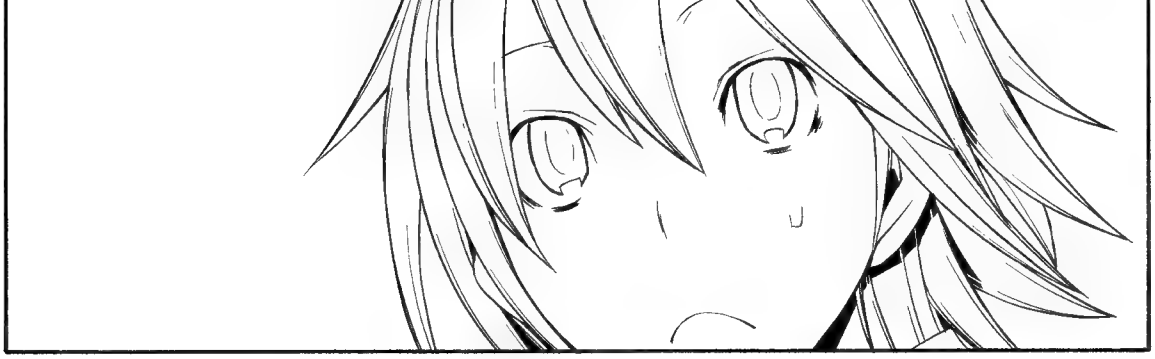
FROM WHAT WE CAN SEE...
...I'M NOT DOING A GOOD JOB AS MAYOR?
SO YOU'RE SAYING ...
...WE ARE FORCED TO CONCLUDE...
...THAT YOU ARE UNFIT TO BE MAYOR.
THUS WE ASK YOU TO STEP DOWN.
QUIVER QUIVER
...WE HAVE NO POWER TO DISMISS YOU.
HOWEVER, AS WE HAVE NO JURISDICTION IN THE SPECIAL DISTRICT...

THAT'S NOT...
TRUE AT ALL...

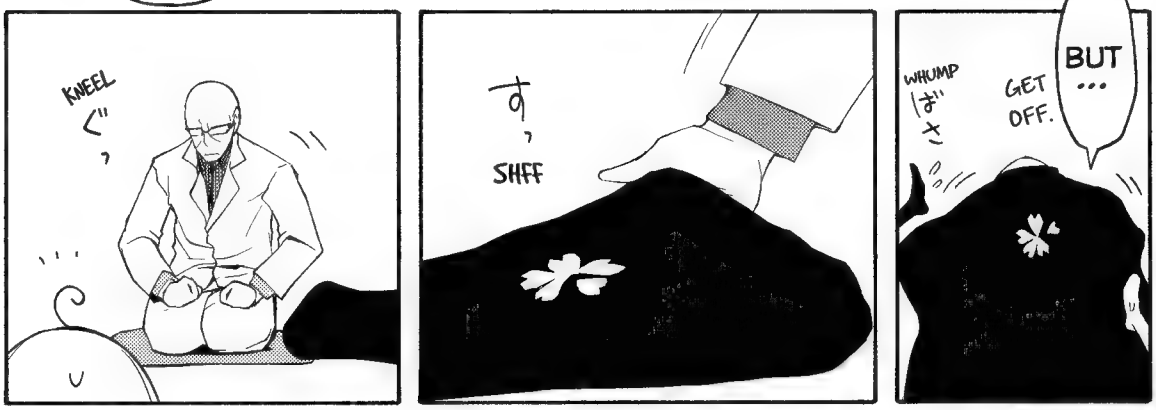
MOOSH
みしみし
MOOSH
SHOW US ONE PERSON IN TOWN WHO WANTS HIME OUT!
I DOUBT YOU WILL, BUT IF YOU CAN, WE'LL SET THEM STRAIGHT!

SHOVE
ぐいぐい
SHOVE
WE'VE BEEN HERE WATCHING HER SINCE WE WERE KIDS!
WE OF ALL PEOPLE KNOW SHE'S THE BEST ONE FOR THE JOB!

TUG
あきあき
TUG
WHAD-DAYA MEAN, "AS FAR AS WE CAN SEE"?
THE SENATE NEVER SETS FOOT IN THIS TOWN!

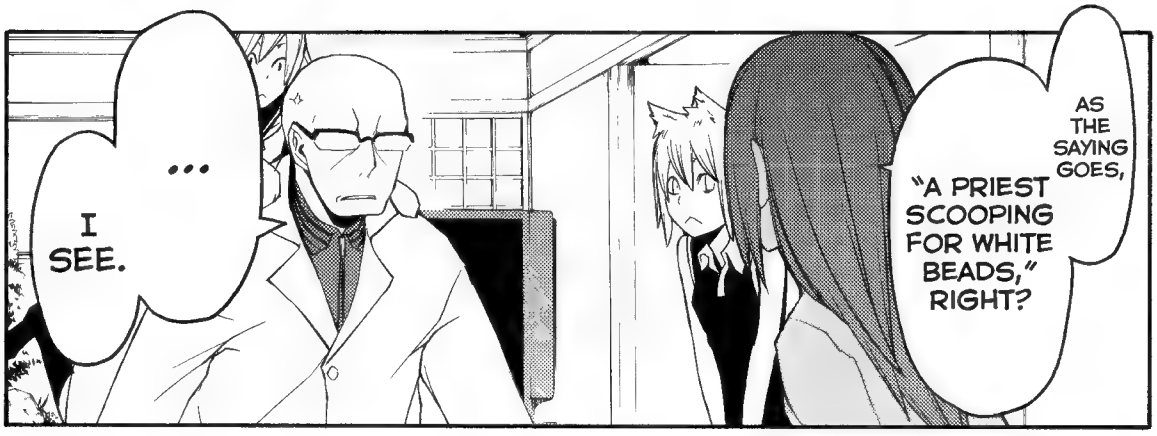


I AM JUST A MESSENGER.
I AM ONLY RELAYING THE REPRESENTATIVES' WILL.


KNEEL
SHFF
WHUMP
GET OFF.
BUT...

IN MY PERSONAL OPINION, AS YOUR VICE PRINCIPAL AND AS A CITIZEN OF THIS TOWN...
...YOU ARE DOING VERY WELL.
PLEASE FORGIVE ME...
...FOR BEING SO RUDE.

I'VE MADE MY FAIR SHARE OF MISTAKES.
OH... PLEASE RAISE YOUR HEAD.
SMACK
SMACK
G-GEEZ! SO YOU DO GET IT, MR. VICE PRINCIPAL!


...
I SEE.
AS THE SAYING GOES,
"A PRIEST SCOOPING FOR WHITE BEADS," RIGHT?

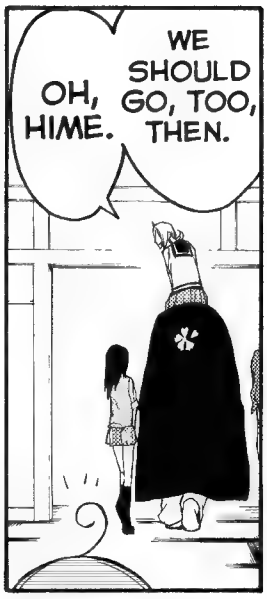
COME TO MY OFFICE TOMORROW MORNING.
DSH DSH
のじのじ
DID WE GO OVERBOARD?

SAWAKI.
AMANO.

OH... OKAY.
THANK YOU, SIR.

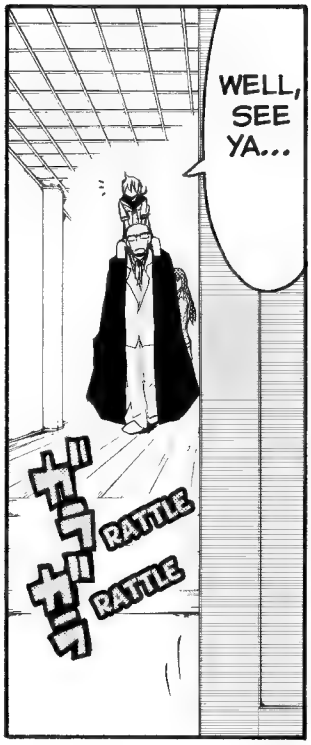
I WILL GO.
PLEASE GET SOME REST.

WHAT.
DON'T FORGET TO GO OVER IT YOURSELF, THOUGH.
WE DID YOUR HOME-WORK FOR YOU!


OH, HIME.
WE SHOULD GO, TOO, THEN.

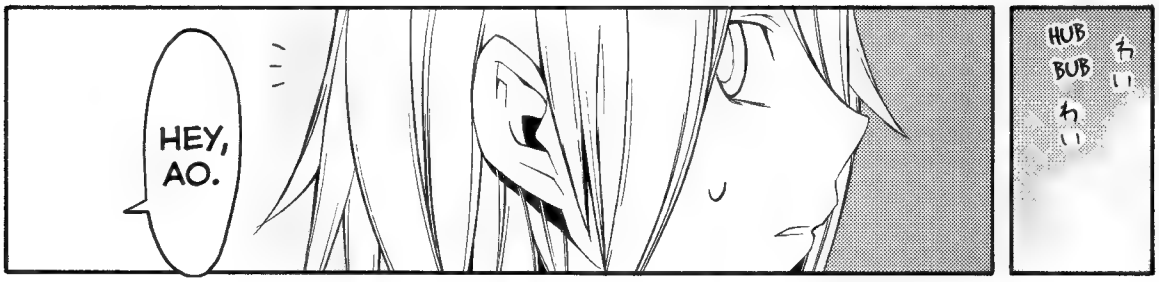
TH-THANKS.

HUB ど" BUB や
ど" HUB や BUB
?
HUH? MR. VICE PRINCI-PAL?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
WHY ARE YOU ALL HERE?
ただいま！
WE'RE BACK!

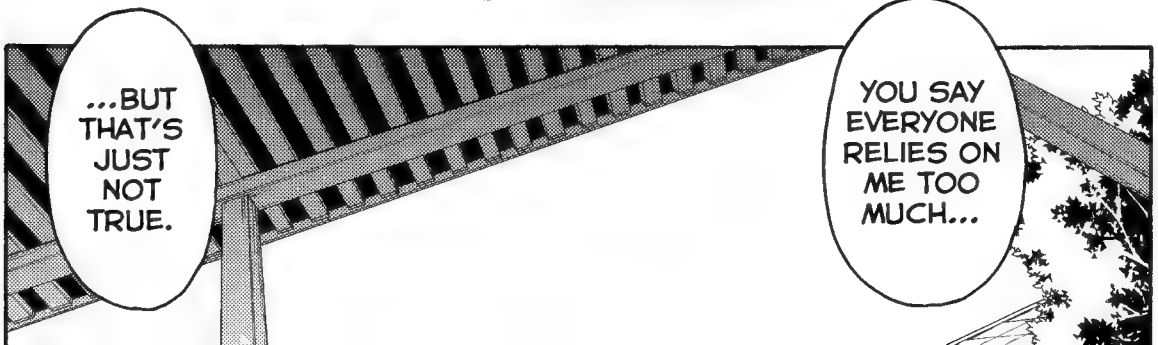

WELL, SEE YA...
ガラガラ
RATTLE RATTLE

HIME-CHAN, WE BROUGHT YOU SOME MEDICINE FROM JURI-SAN!
AND I GOT FOOD!
WE CAN EAT TOGETH-ER.
TH-THANKS.

I...
I BROUGHT A ROLLING PIN.
I'LL MAKE SOME FRESH SOBA NOODLES FOR YOU.
全快 TOTAL RECOVERY
YA-HOO!
SOBA! SOBA!
SHE'S ALL BETTER.

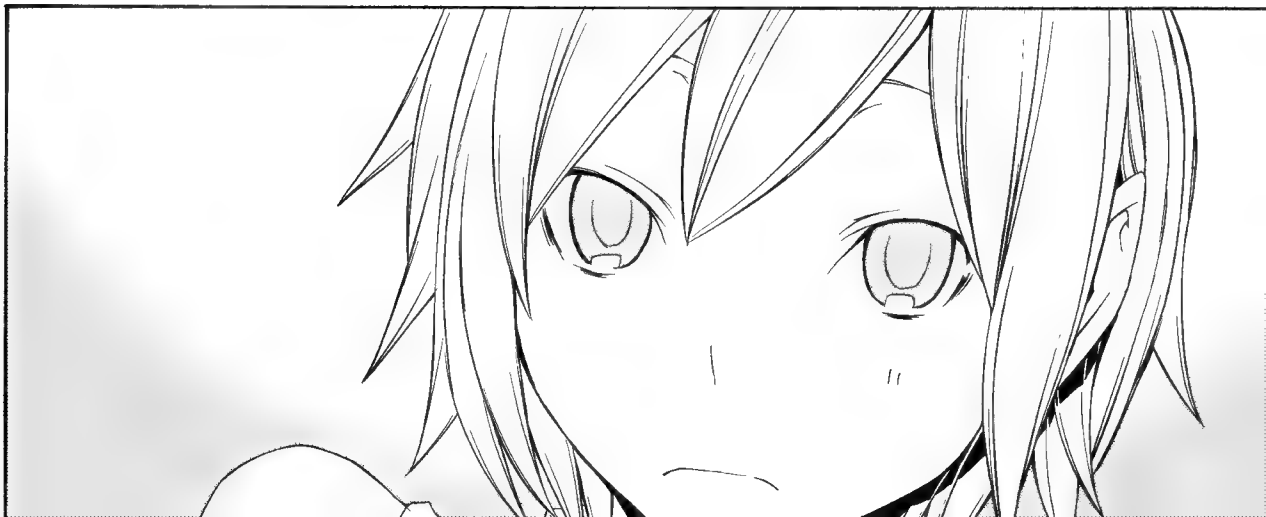

HEY, AO.
HUB BUB

I KNOW I CAN'T RELIVE MY TEEN-AGE YEARS.
BUT I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO RELIVE BEING MAYOR, EITHER.
SO I HAVE NO REGRETS.
I'M NOT PUSHING MYSELF AT ALL.


YOU SAY EVERYONE RELIES ON ME TOO MUCH...
...BUT THAT'S JUST NOT TRUE.

LOOK AT HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE HELPING ME OUT NOW.
I'M THE ONE RELYING ON THEM!

AND I CAN ALWAYS ...
...RELY ON YOU, CAN'T I?
GRIN ニヤニヤ



I'M MAKING THE SOBA.
YOU THREE?
NO WAY! I'VE NEVER COOKED FOR SO MANY PEOPLE BEFORE.
AKINA-SAN...
WE CAN'T COOK!

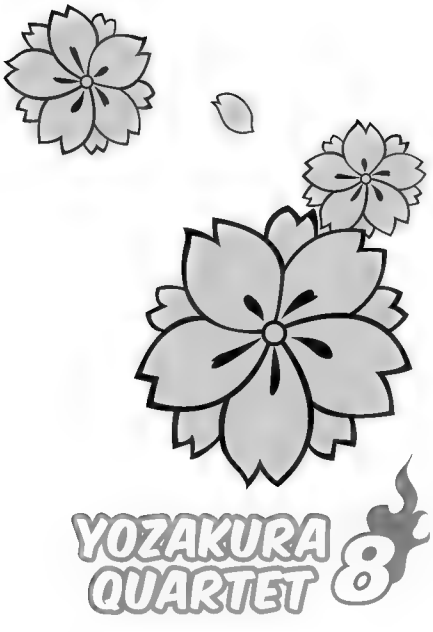
TOUKA, COOK FOR US.
I'M TIRED FROM ALL THAT'S HAP-PENED.
WHEW... MAN.
WHAT?!
OOF よいしょ

WELL... I GUESS WE CAN JUST EAT EVERY-THING RAW.
JUST GOBBLE IT DOWN.
DAI-KON
HECK NO! THAT'S PORK, ISN'T IT?!
火を通して!
YOU HAVE TO COOK IT!

NOW, NOW, AO.
LIKE THEY SAY, "A PRIEST SCOOPING FOR WHITE BEADS," RIGHT?
ALL RIGHT, YOU KEEP ON SAYING THAT, BUT WHAT THE HECK IS IT?!
ガクッ
YORK
WHO'S SCOOP-ING WHAT?

IT'S AN IDIOM I THOUGHT OF MY-SELF.
I'M TRYING TO MAKE IT POPULAR...
AN IDIOM ...
...YOU THOUGHT OF YOUR-SELF?
YOU CAN'T JUST MAKE THAT STUFF UP!

はあ
SIGH
SORRY!
PLEASE, AO, SAVE US!
SORRY!
WE'RE STARV-ING!
SORRY!
ALL RIGHT, FINE.
LET'S GET DOWN TO BUSINESS, THEN!
食材を前へ!!
BRING ON THE INGREDIENTS!
YAAAY!
...
WHO ORDERED THAT?!
WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH THIS RAMEN?


YOZAKURA
QUARTET
8

A PRIEST SCOOPING FOR WHITE BEADS.

I'M SERIOUS! I SAW ONE!
WHAT? A GHOST?
TAKOYAKI

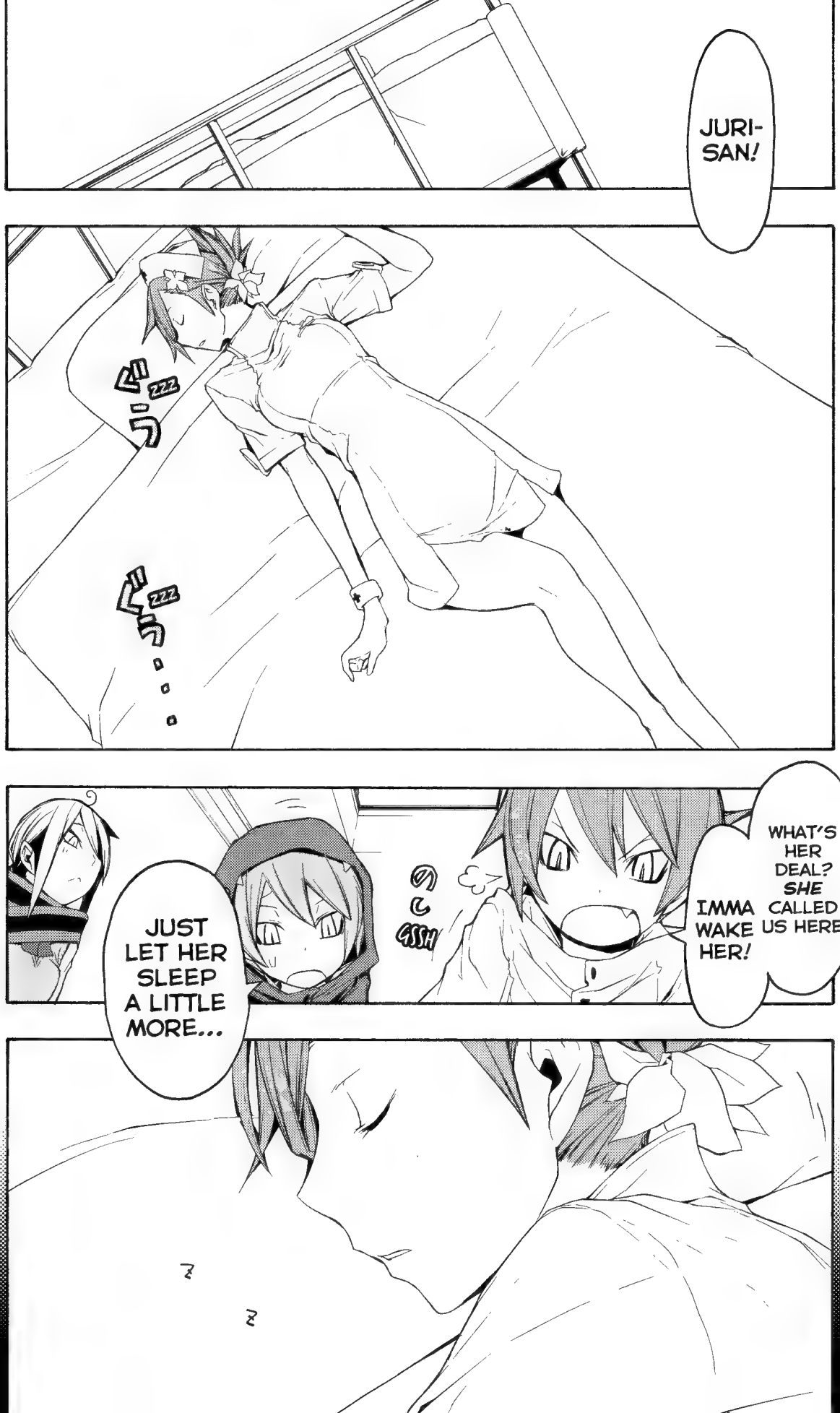
KANA'S ALWAYS SPACIN' OUT, BUT I SWEAR I SAW ONE FLOATIN' IN THE AIR!
FLING

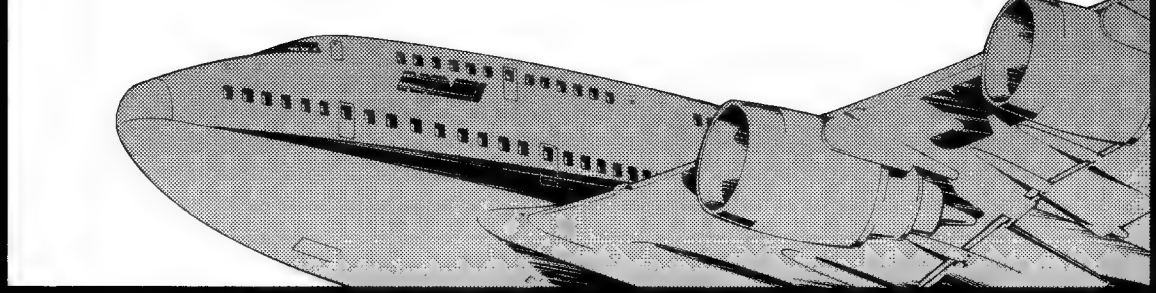
NO, I DIDN'T ...
DID YOU MEAN KANA?

MMRGH.
I'LL TELL YAE-SAN JUST IN CASE.
THE SUN'S GONNA SET SOON. LET'S HURRY.

I KNOW I SHOULDN'T TALK, BUT...
...A GHOST?
A GHOST, HUH?
CHOMP

MMRGH.
IT'S JUST TO BE SAFE.
THIS IS YOUR LAST ONE.
I'M FINE!
I HATE CHECK-UPS!
IT'S BEEN FOREVER SINCE TOUKA TRIED TO STRANGLE ME!
OH, WE'RE HERE.
SHE'S ALWAYS LOOKING OUT FOR ME.
I'M AN ONLY CHILD, AFTER ALL.
BUT SHE IS LIKE AN OLDER SISTER TO ME.
I WOULDN'T SAY THAT ...
ALL RIGHT, FINE.
SHE SURE HAS YOU UNDER HER THUMB.
JURI-SAN IS TAKING TIME OUT OF HER DAY TO SEE THAT YOU'RE HEALTHY.
JURI-SAN, WE'RE HERE...
HELLO!


JURI-SAN!
ぐぅ
zzz
ぐぅ
zzz
WHAT'S HER DEAL? SHE CALLED US HERE! IMMA WAKE HER!
のし
GSSH
JUST LET HER SLEEP A LITTLE MORE...
z
z



I'M HERE.

THIS ...
...IS JAPAN.

~~
~~~
~~~~~~
~~~~~~~
I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT THEY'RE SAYING.
NOW...
HEE EY!
THERE YOU ARE!
YOU'RE DR. FRANKENSTEIN'S GRANDDAUGHTER, RIGHT?
I'M HERE TO PICK YOU UP!
~~~~~~~

CLINK
OH, SORRY.
I CAN'T UNDERSTAND HER, EITHER.
WHAT'S A CHILD DOING HERE?
HUP!
VWSH
YOU GET YOUR BAG?
THAT COUNTER OVER THERE.
...RIGHT?
...FLIGHT WILL NOW ...
じー
STARE
...
HOW'S THAT? YOU UNDERSTAND US NOW?

...I SEE.
TAK
SHE SURE IS GROWN UP.
ANI-KI! I FOUND HER. LET'S GO!
ALL RIGHT.
MOOSH
WELL, WHAT HAVE WE HERE? AREN'T YOU CUTE?
NICE TO MEET-CHA.
POUT

HE SEEMS FISHY. AND THE WOMAN IS ANGRY.
I KNEW IT. THE ADULTS HERE ARE THE SAME...
LET'S GO.
OH?
THAT BAG SEEMS HEAVY.
NOT REALLY.
I'LL HOLD IT FOR YOU. GIVE IT HERE.
I'M FINE.
DON'T TREAT ME LIKE A CHILD!
...YOU SURE SEEM LIKE A CHILD TO ME.
NOT THAT IT'S A BAD THING.
PEEK
BUT...

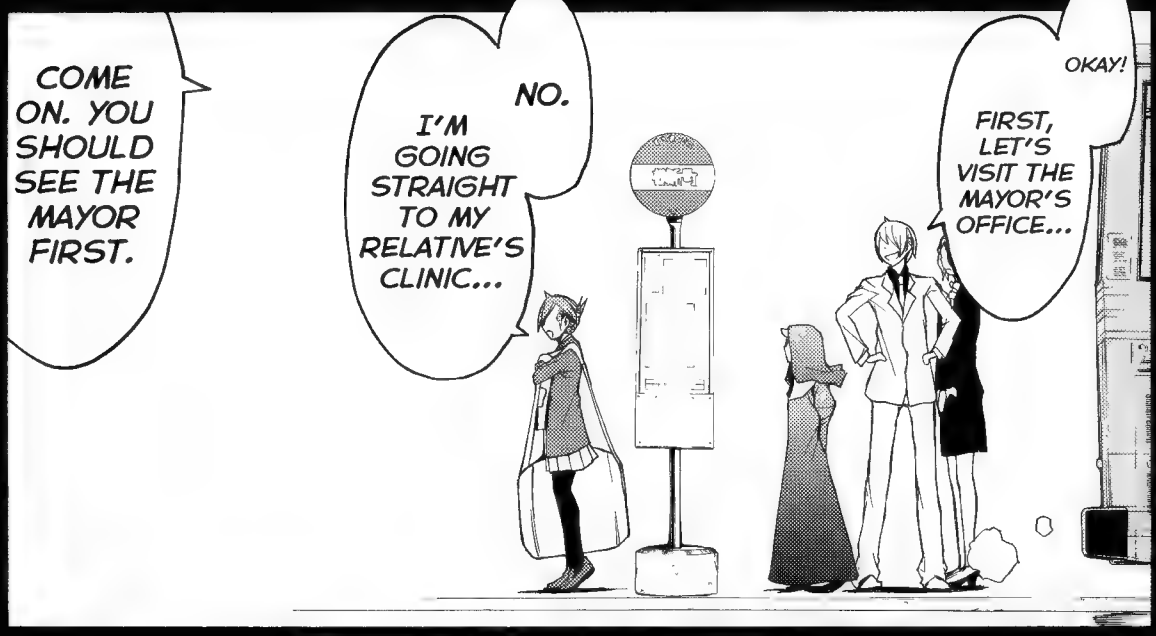
VWIP
WHAM
YOW!
PAFT
OH!
OH, MY.

HMPH.
ADULTS ARE ALL...
TAK TAK
GOOD FOR YOU.
OW, OW, OW.
SAKURASHIN
RAPID TRANSIT BUS TO SEIKYU
A STRONG, STRONG
I WANT TO BE AN ADULT ALREADY
I DON'T WANT TO WAIT
HEY.
STRONG ADULT

...OF MY ANCESTOR LIVES IN THIS TOWN.
WELL... A RELATIVE...
...
WHY'D YOU COME TO JAPAN?
WE WEREN'T TOLD MUCH ABOUT YOU.
...
BUT... IN MY COUNTRY...
HE... HE WAS AMAZING.
DR. FRANKENSTEIN?
ANCESTOR... OH!
DO YOU HAVE A BROTHER OR SISTER?
MAMA AND PAPA TOLD ME TO DO WHAT I BELIEVE IN.
YOUR PARENTS MUST BE WORRIED SICK SINCE YOU JUST UP AND LEFT.
...
ZZZSH
A SISTER? I HAVE...

OM もぐ
NOM もぐ
SHE'S EATING IT!
THAT'S DANGER-OUS!
もぐもぐ OM NOM
JURI-SAN CAN ACTUALLY EAT MORE THAN ME.
IT'S NOT FAIR...
YET SHE HAS SUCH NICE CURVES...
SHE JUST GOBBLES IT DOWN!
Chomp Chomp Chomp

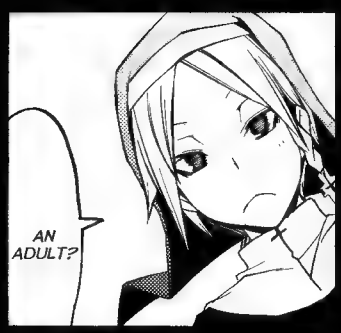
SAKURASHIN TOWN


COME ON. YOU SHOULD SEE THE MAYOR FIRST.
NO. I'M GOING STRAIGHT TO MY RELATIVE'S CLINIC...
OKAY! FIRST, LET'S VISIT THE MAYOR'S OFFICE...

I...
...WANT TO BE AN ADULT AL-READY.

HE'S...
...TREAT-ING ME LIKE A CHILD AGAIN.

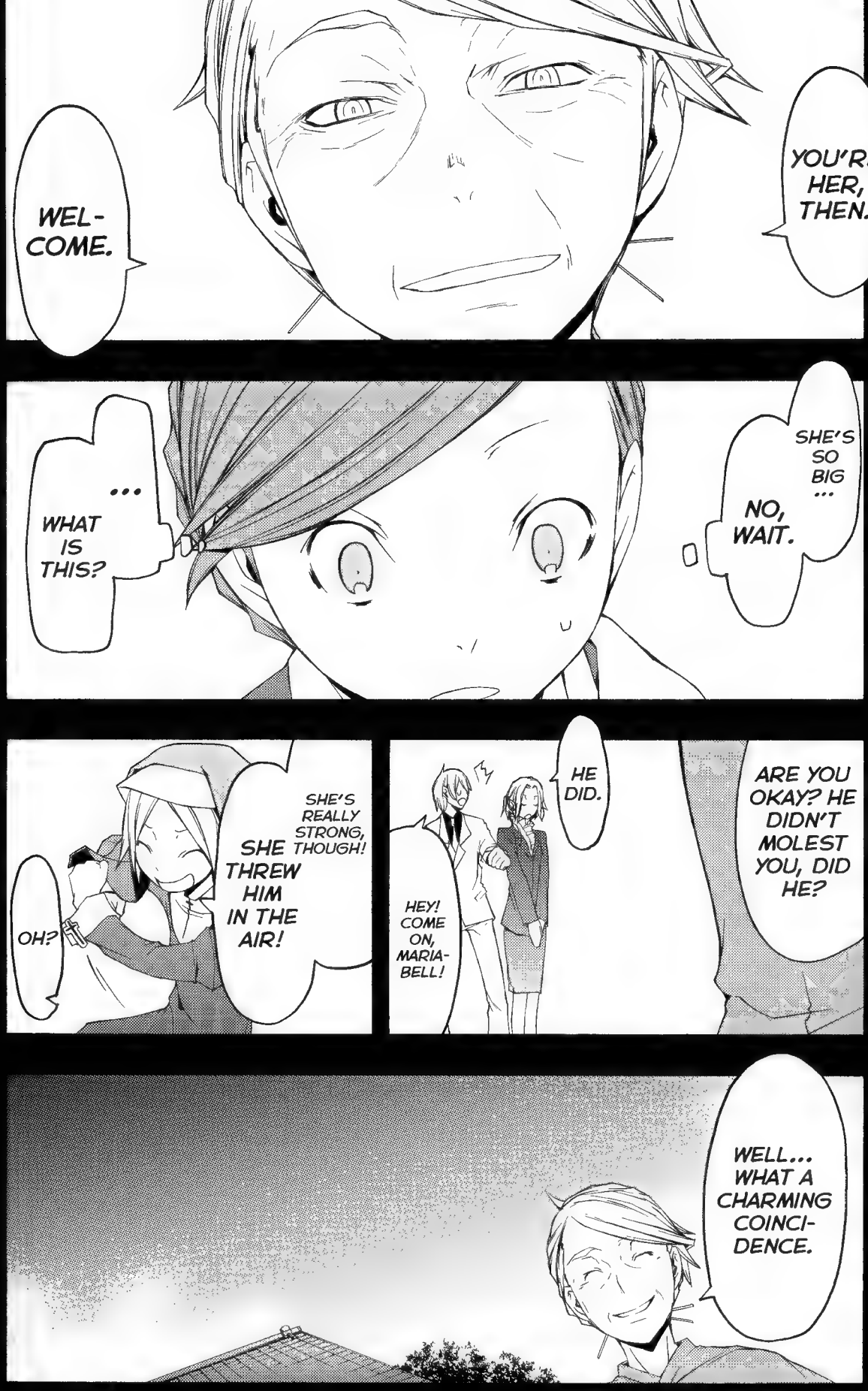
YOU'LL PROBABLY END UP CRYING TO HER A LOT.
...


AN ADULT?

VOICE?
A CHILD'S VOICE IS TOO QUIET.
I WANT ...
...A LOUDER VOICE.
I CAN'T LEAVE TOWN IF I DON'T KEEP UP THIS APPEA... OH, NEVER MIND.
YOU'RE A CHILD TOO. DON'T YOU THINK THE SAME?
HMM?
NOT THAT KIND OF LOUD-NESS!
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN.
LA-LA-LA!
YOU CAN FIX THAT WITH VOCAL TRAINING ...
SHE'S ... ...STRONG.
AFTER WATCHING ADULTS FOR SO LONG, I'M BETTER THAN ANYONE AT SEEING HOW GREAT SOMEONE IS.
I JUST WANT TO JOIN THE ADULT WORLD ALREADY
THIS IS WHY I HATE KIDS.

HE'S GOT A BIG HEART.
HE'S... VERY STRONG.
STRONG.
WEAK...
WEAK.
WEAK.
THE MAN IS JUST NORMAL.
...PROB-ABLY THE STRONGEST IN TOWN.
THESE TWO... THE LADY IS...
OH! IT'S THE MAY-OR.
...I BET THE MAYOR'S ...
CONSID-ERING SHE SENT HIM TO GET ME...
I CAN'T TELL.
...
HE'S...

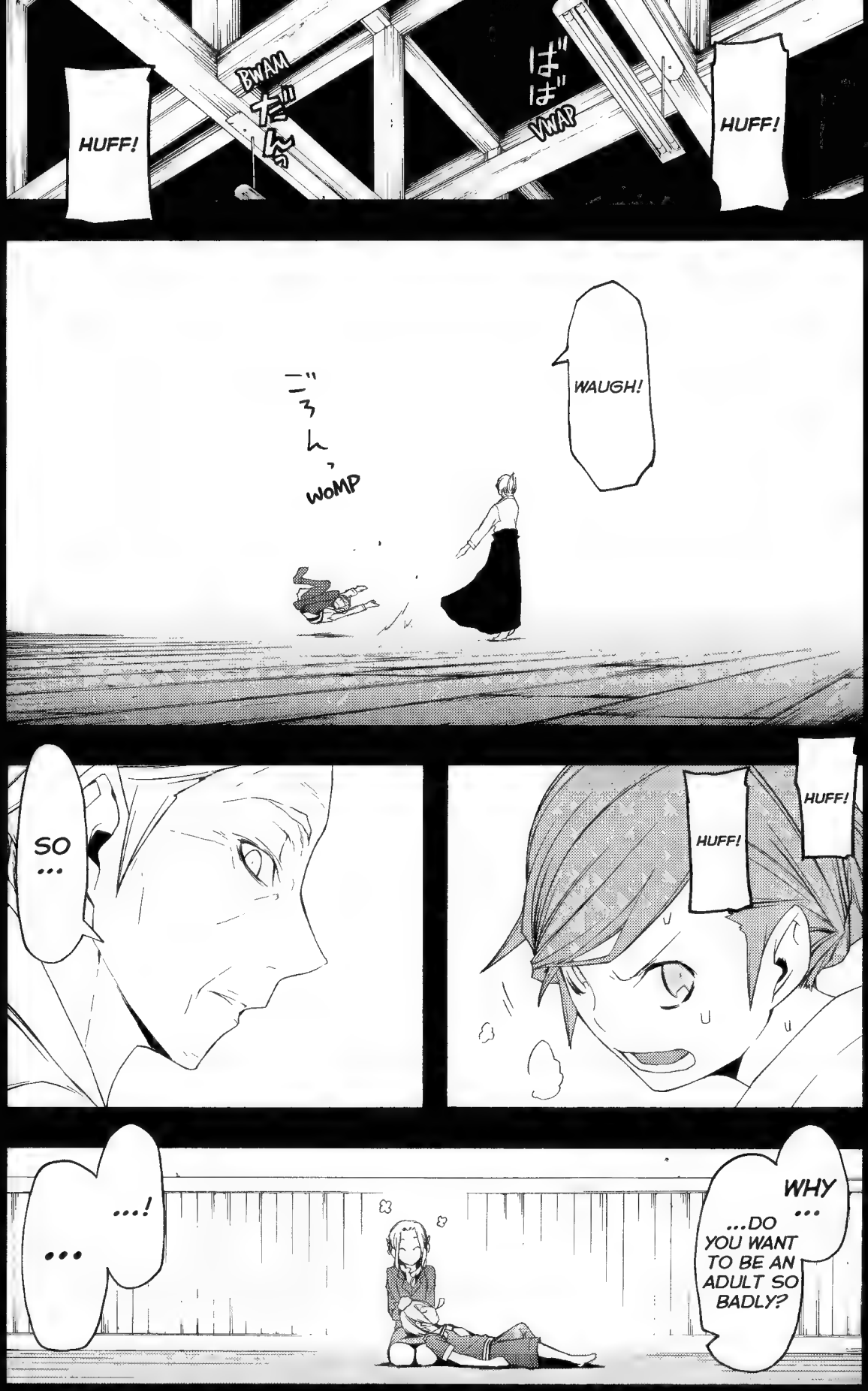
OH!


YOU'RE HER, THEN.
WEL-COME.
SHE'S SO BIG ...
NO, WAIT.
...
WHAT IS THIS?
ARE YOU OKAY? HE DIDN'T MOLEST YOU, DID HE?
HE DID.
HEY! COME ON, MARIA-BELL!
SHE'S REALLY STRONG, THOUGH!
SHE THREW HIM IN THE AIR!
OH?
WELL... WHAT A CHARMING COINCI-DENCE.

GO ON.
REALLY GIVE HIM THE WHAT-FOR.
THEN YOU CAN BE EVEN.
ガシ KWIK
HMPH.
HEY, EVEN SO...
ガシ GRAB
WHOA!
VWM
くるん TWIRL
TMP すとん
HUP!

SEE, I...
YOU...
YWM
HM? HEY NOW.
BAM
FOR AN ADULT...
...YOU SURE DON'T ACT GROWN-UP.
GRAB
WHOA!
YOINK
...AM A FEMI-NIST.
THERE'S POTENTIAL HERE...
MOOSH
YEOW!
WHAM

HUFF
ADULTS!
OH, DEAR.
ANIKI, YOU IDIOT!
HUFF HUFF
OW...
SHFF
BUT...
ALL RIGHT.
MA-CHI.
PLEASE.
YOU HAVE NO ONE TO BLAME BUT YOUR-SELF FOR THAT ONE.
IT SEEMS YOU'VE GOT SOME BAGGAGE.
...
MIND IF I...
...TRAIN WITH YOU?


HUFF!
BWAM
だん
ばば
VWAP
HUFF!
WAUGH!
ごろん
WOMP
SO ...
HUFF!
HUFF!
...!
...
WHY ...
...DO YOU WANT TO BE AN ADULT SO BADLY?

ADULTS... HAVE LOUDER VOICES.
THEY DROWN OUT THE VOICES OF CHILDREN.
HUFF, HUFF
GRAB
WAUGH!
WOMP
YOU MEAN DR. FRANKENSTEIN?
THEY CAN SAY WHAT THEY WANT WITH THEIR LOUD VOICES.
EVEN ABOUT MY FAMILY...
HE BROKE THE RULES IN ORDER TO SAVE THE VILLAGE.
BUT... BUT...
EVERYONE JUST SAYS HE WAS A SINNER...
...WHO CONDUCTED EXPERIMENTS ON HUMANS!
WITH THOSE ...
...LOUD, LOUD, LOUD VOICES OF THEIRS ...
...

I WANT TO BE AN ADULT SO I CAN HAVE A LOUD VOICE...
...AND MAKE PEOPLE LISTEN TO ME.
むくっ
WOBB
AND I'LL TELL THEM MY GREAT-GREAT-GREAT... GREAT-GRANDFATHER...
...DID NOTHING WRONG!
BUT THEY WON'T LISTEN TO A KID!
I WANT TO...
...BE AN ADULT SO I CAN STOP...
...BEING HURT BY THEM.
GRRT

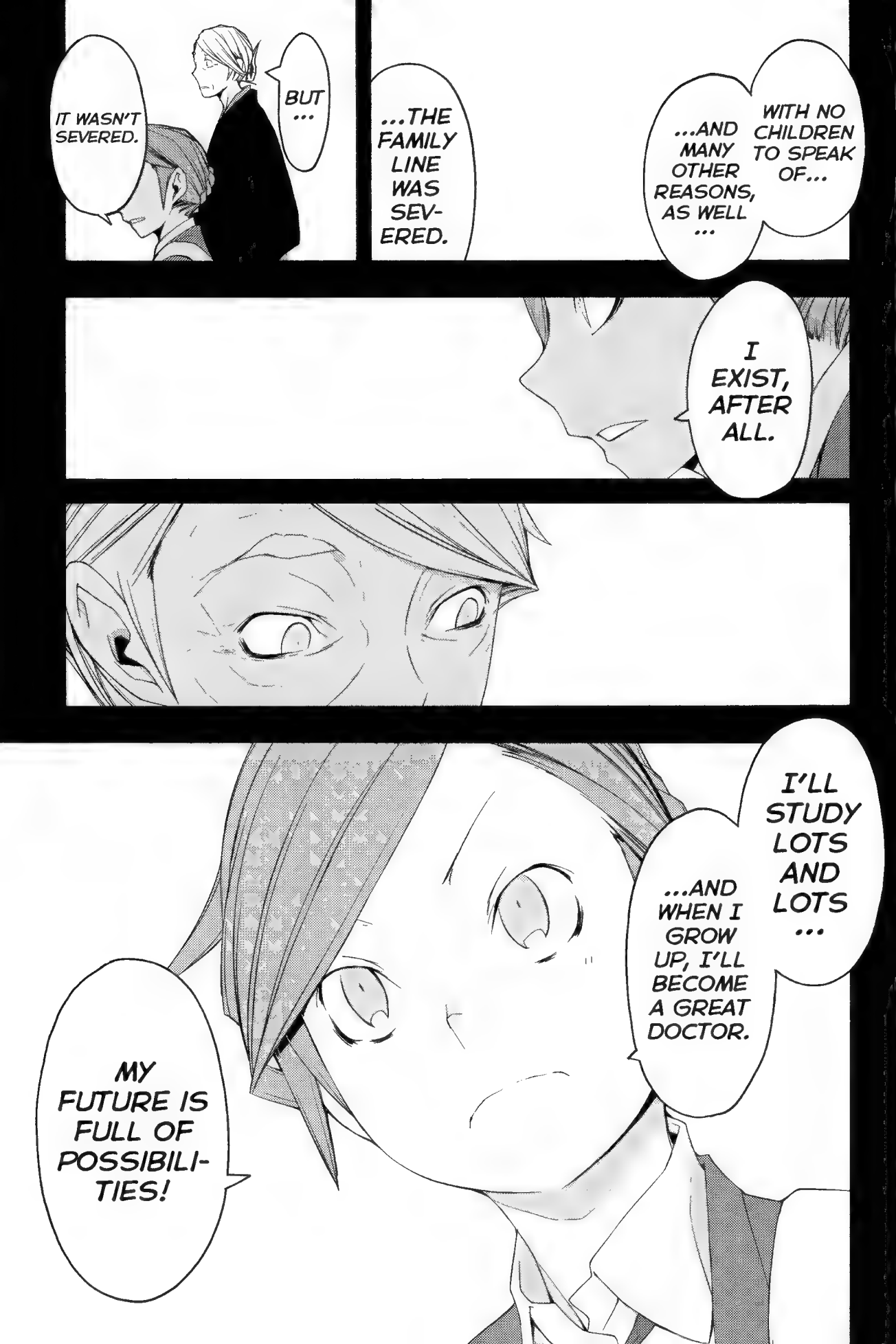
RIGHT NOW, YOUR STRENGTH IS...
...WHAT IS HURTING YOU.
WHAT I'M USING IS CALLED ...
...AIKIDO.
SWIFF
I COUNTER MY OPPONENT WITH THEIR OWN POWER.
THE REASON YOU FEEL SO BETRAYED ...
...IS BECAUSE YOU DETEST ADULTS.
YET YOU'RE DYING TO BE ONE.
WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT HATE?

...
ADULTS... HAVE LOUD VOICES.
IT'S FUN.
BEING AN ADULT IS FUN.
BUT ...
...AN ADULT CAN'T BECOME A CHILD.
A CHILD CAN BE-COME AN ADULT.
SO DON'T BECOME THE LOUD ADULT THAT YOU HATE SO MUCH.
BECOME AN ADULT THAT CAN BE HEARD EVEN WITH A SOFT VOICE.
THEN YOU'LL BE ABLE TO BEND PEOPLE'S EARS, EVEN WHEN IT COMES TO YOUR ANCESTORS.

IT'S TIME.
YAE, TAKE HER TO THE CLINIC.
I DON'T THINK SHE GETS IT.
MAY-BE.
IT'S FINE.
I'LL TAKE HER.
DON'T WOR-RY.
THEN ...
OKAY.

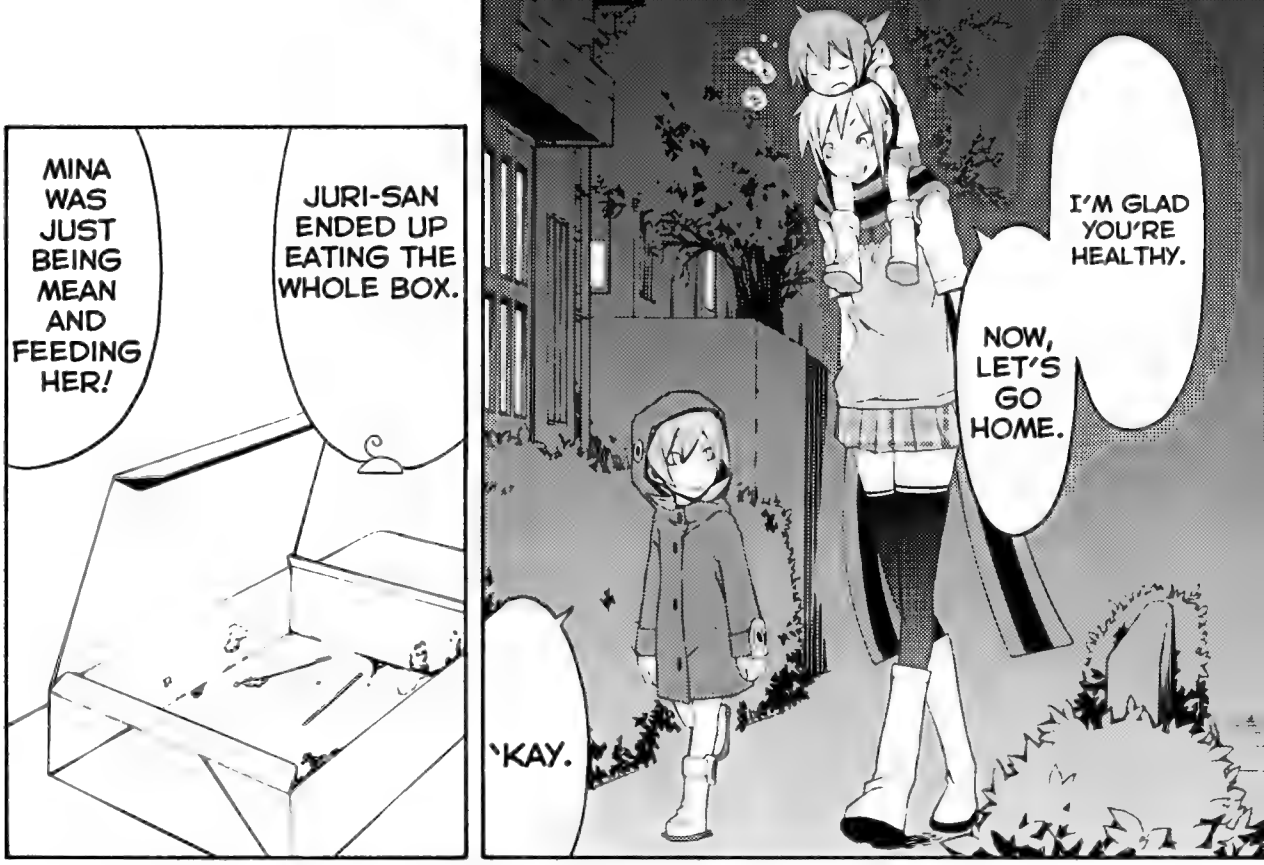
THE GOOD DOCTOR CAME HERE HUNDREDS OF YEARS AGO, SO NATURALLY, I NEVER MET HIM.
BUT THE CLINIC HE OPENED ...
...AND HIS DESCEN-DANTS THAT INHERITED IT...
EVERY-ONE IN TOWN HAS ALWAYS SAID...
...THEY WERE ETERNALLY GRATEFUL FOR THAT.
...
YOU CAN LET ME DOWN.
GOOD.
WE'RE HERE.
TP

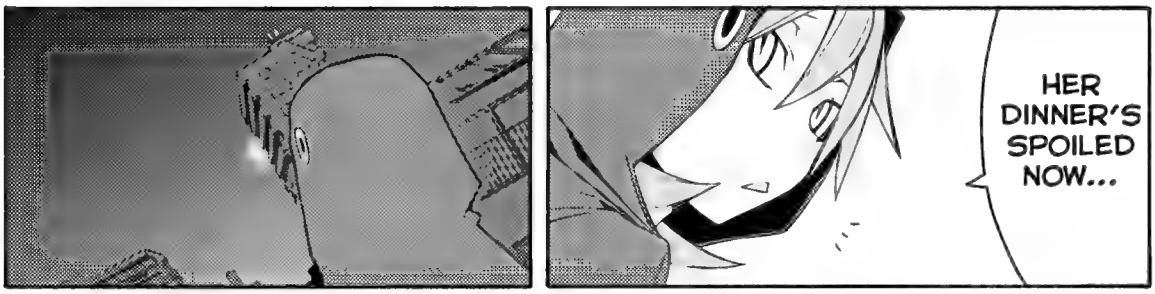
IT HAPPENED WHEN I WAS A CHILD.
DECADES AGO.
HE WAS A VERY KIND DOCTOR.

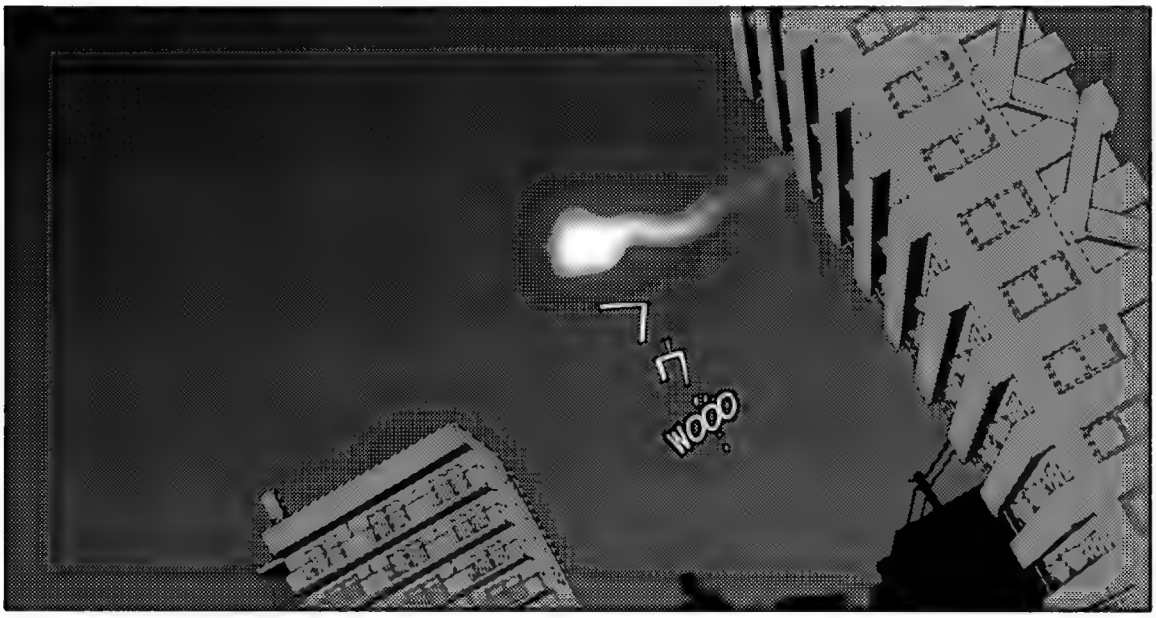

IT WASN'T SEVERED.
BUT ...
...THE FAMILY LINE WAS SEV-ERED.
...AND MANY OTHER REASONS, AS WELL ...
WITH NO CHILDREN TO SPEAK OF...
I EXIST, AFTER ALL.
I'LL STUDY LOTS AND LOTS ...
...AND WHEN I GROW UP, I'LL BECOME A GREAT DOCTOR.
MY FUTURE IS FULL OF POSSIBILI-TIES!

COME ON OUT, YOU.
JOLT
THAT SOUNDS PROMISING.
SHUFFLE
THIS IS GOING TO BE YOUR NEW BIG SISTER.
BIG SISTER...
DO YOU ...HAVE A SISTER BACK HOME?
HUH?
I HAVE ...
ZING
ZZZSH
...SAMA.
NEE-SAMA.

ZZZSH
NEE-SAMA.
I LOVE YOU DEARLY.
ZZZSH
BLINK
NOM
OH, SHE'S AWAKE!


MINA WAS JUST BEING MEAN AND FEEDING HER!
JURI-SAN ENDED UP EATING THE WHOLE BOX.
I'M GLAD YOU'RE HEALTHY.
NOW, LET'S GO HOME.
'KAY.


HER DINNER'S SPOILED NOW...

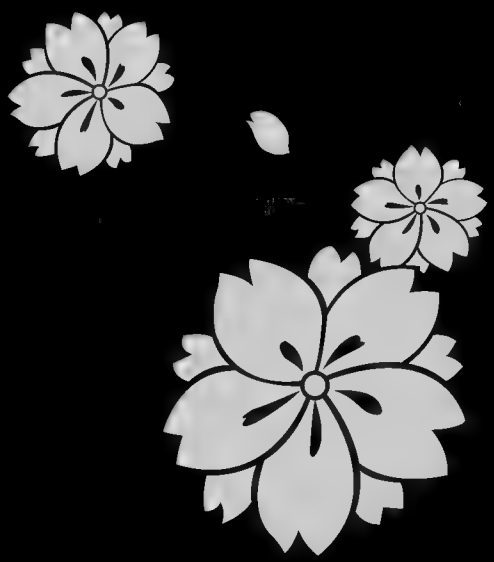

WOOO

AH... AH... AAA AH!
GHOST! GHOST!
THE GHOST MINA WAS TALKING ABOUT!
HUH?
NO WAY!
...THERE'S NOTHING THERE.
WEIRD...
MAYBE YOU'RE SO HUNGRY YOU'RE SEEING THINGS.
LET'S GO.
AW, I KNOW I SAW IT...
WOOO
HEE HEE HEE!
MY, OH MY. ME, A GHOST?

HOW RUDE!
I OUGHT TO HAUNT YOU FOR THAT!

To be Continued.....

YOZAKURA QUARTET 9



THERE, THERE...
?

COVER OF *MONTHLY SIRIUS*'S NOVEMBER 2009 ISSUE

COVER OF *MONTHLY SIRIUS*'S AUGUST 2009 ISSUE

HMM... YOZAQUART DORMITORY IS GETTING (INEXPLICABLY) NOISY LATELY.
TP
TP
?
よざカル!
YOZAQUART!
I SMELL LOOSE MORALS.
I OUGHT TO PATROL... WHOA!
CLINK
SAKE
CLINKA
OH!
OH!
OH...
CLINKA
CLINKA
WAUGH!
WHAM
BEARS?
OW...
HUH?
DSSH DSSH

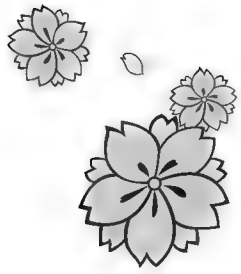
WHAT IN THE WORLD ...
MOOSH

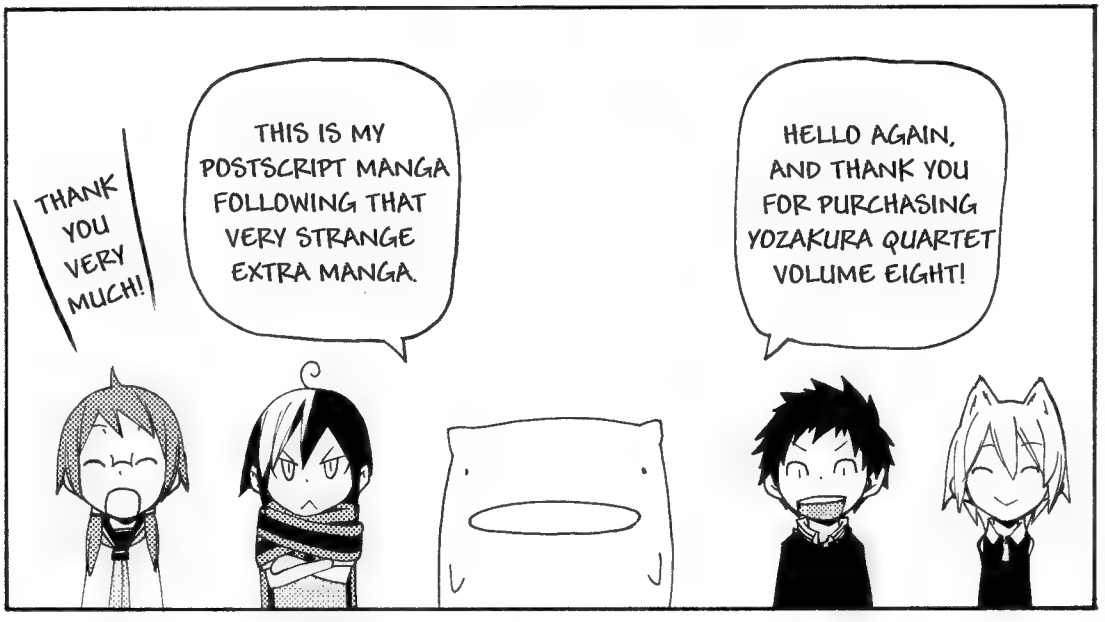
THERE ARE BEARS EVERY-WHERE?
AND IS THAT ALCOHOL I SMELL?

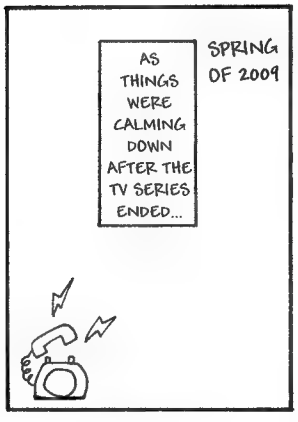
I FOUND A PER-SON!
ごくん HIC
ごくん HIC
WHASSA?

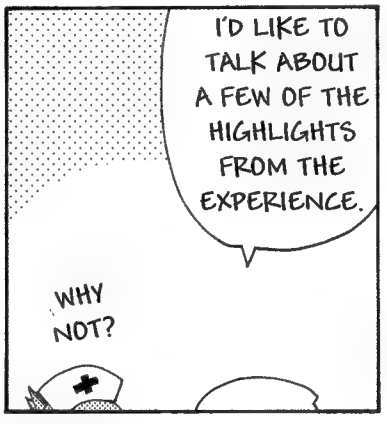
WHA-WHA-WHA-WHA-
WHA-WHA-WHA-WHA-
WHAT?!
ドカ STOMP
ボカ SMACK
くに MOOSH
MOOSH?

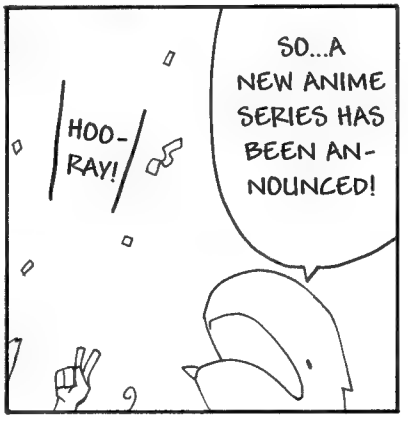
I WAS BEARLY DRINKING WHEN THIS CUTE BOY...
BEARLY DRINK-ING?!
PLEASE DON'T DRINK IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY!
AND I'M A GIRL!
A CUTE LITTLE GIRL!
HUH? A GIRL?
A GIRL...
THAT WORKS, TOO!
すりすり RUB RUB
DON'T FLIP-FLOP LIKE THAT!
THAT'S HOW THIS CHAPTER GOES.
かきかき SKRITCH SKRITCH
SHE DREW THAT HER-SELF!
LEAVE ME OUT OF YOUR FANTA-SIES!

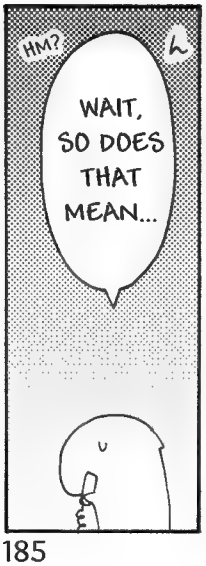


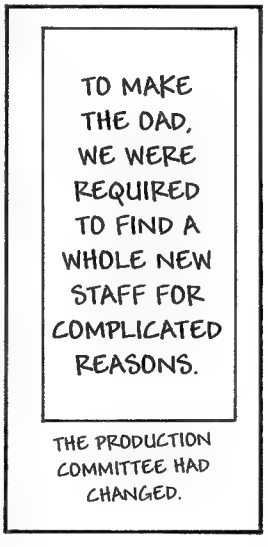

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
THIS IS MY POSTSCRIPT MANGA FOLLOWING THAT VERY STRANGE EXTRA MANGA.
HELLO AGAIN, AND THANK YOU FOR PURCHASING YOZAKURA QUARTET VOLUME EIGHT!

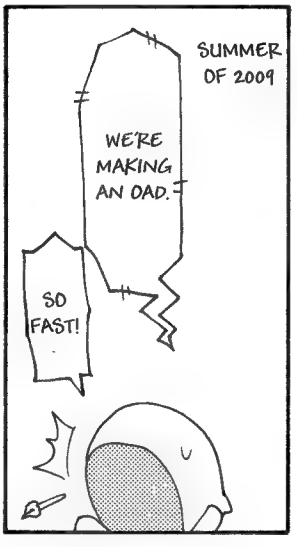

AS THINGS WERE CALMING DOWN AFTER THE TV SERIES ENDED...
SPRING OF 2009

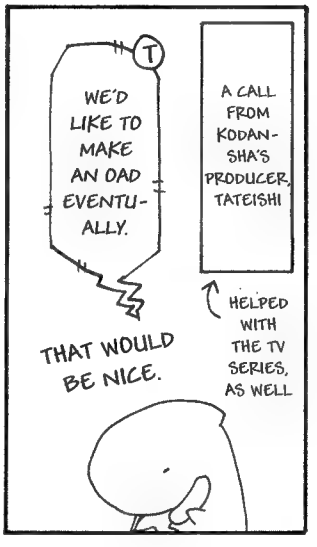

I'D LIKE TO TALK ABOUT A FEW OF THE HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE EXPERIENCE.
WHY NOT?

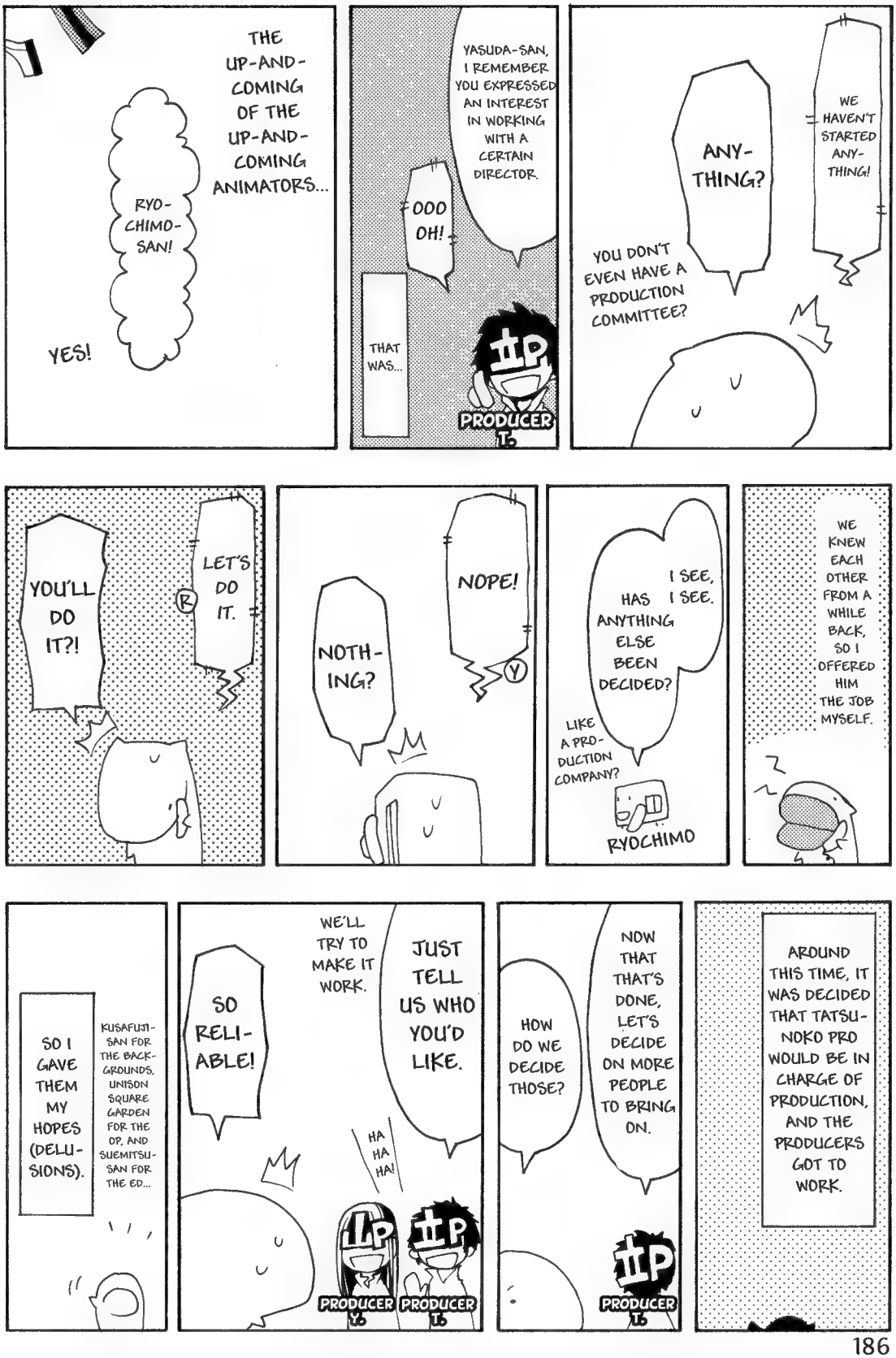

SO...A NEW ANIME SERIES HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED!
HOORAY!

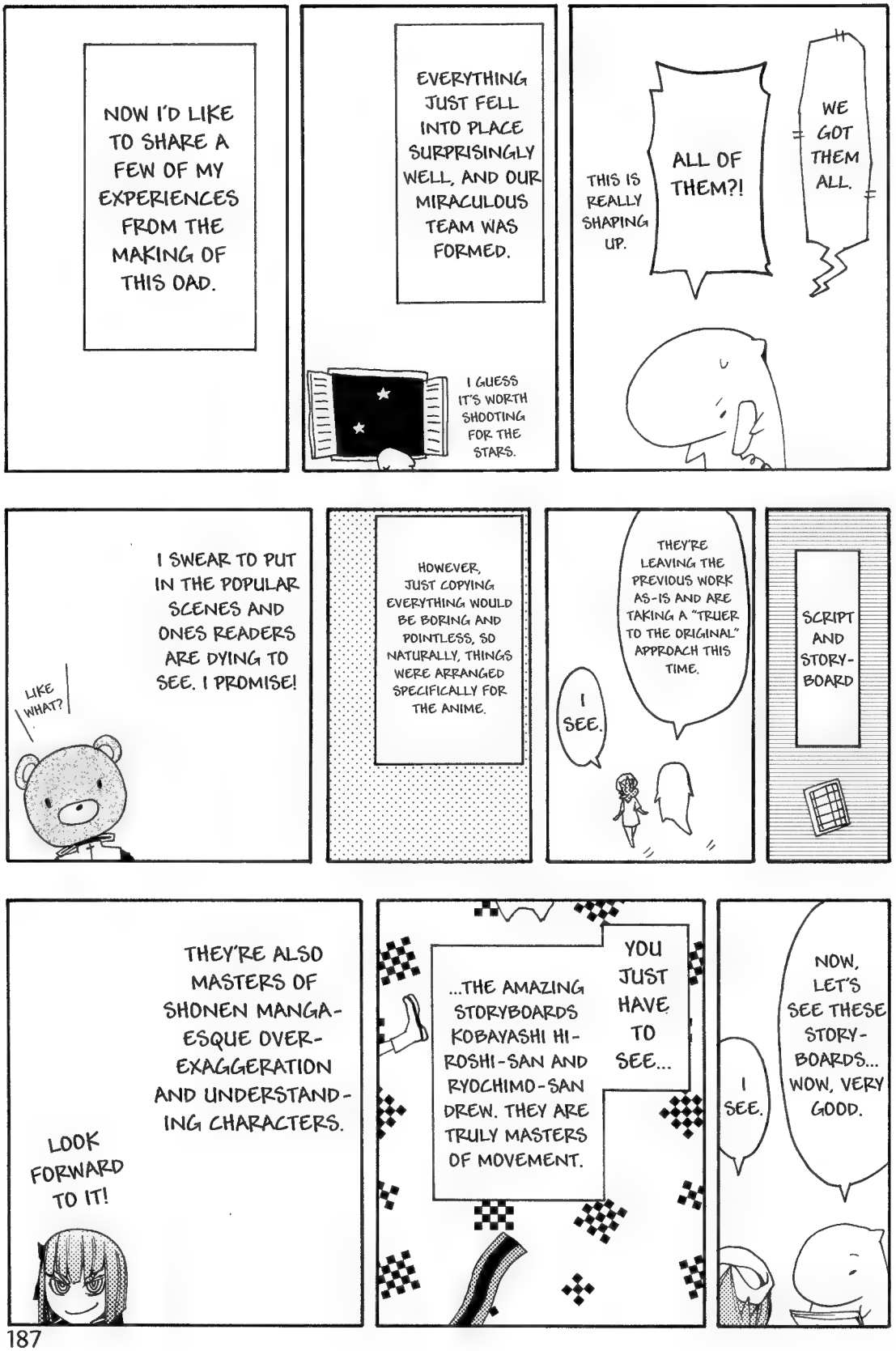

HM?
WAIT, SO DOES THAT MEAN...

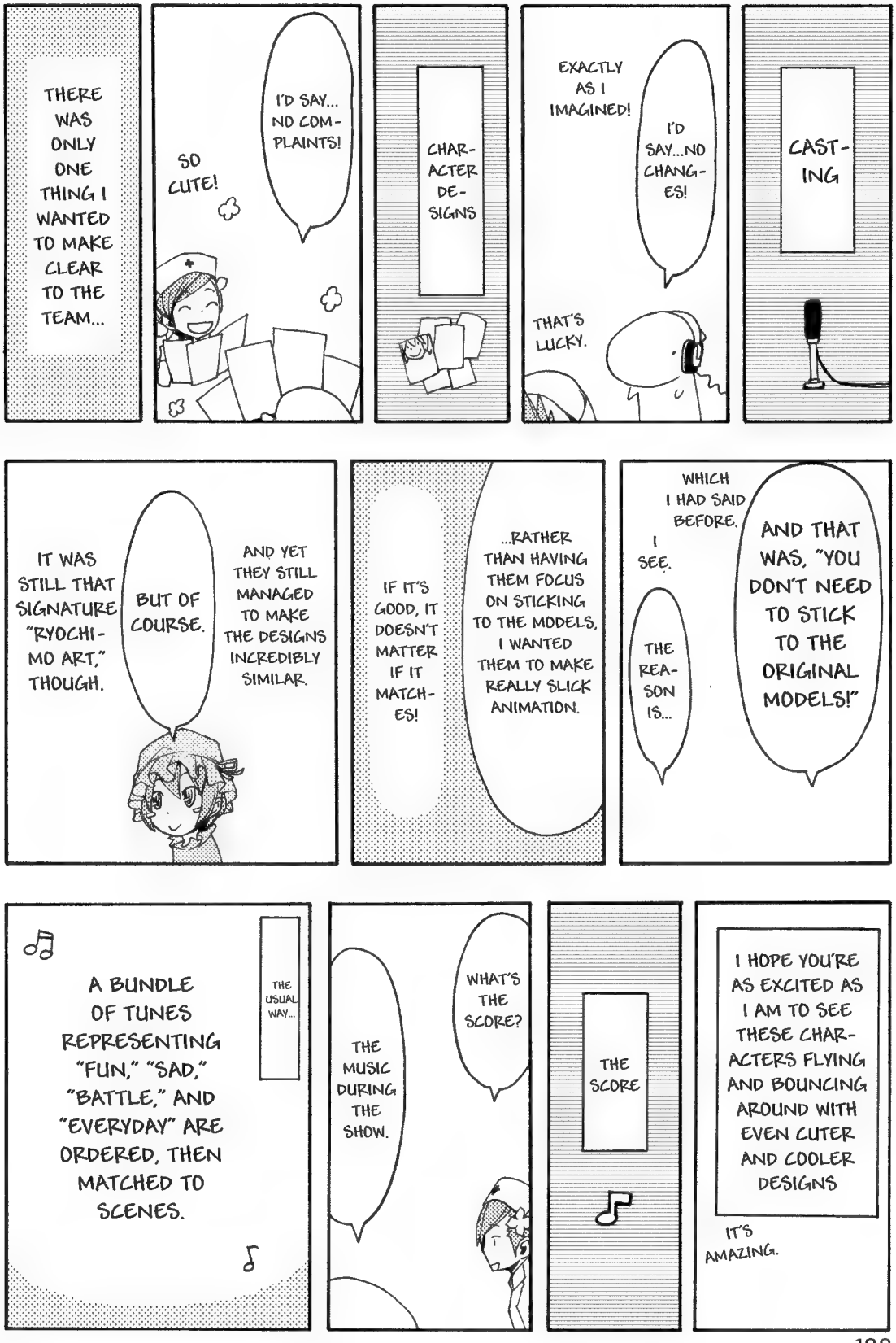

TO MAKE THE OAD, WE WERE REQUIRED TO FIND A WHOLE NEW STAFF FOR COMPLICATED REASONS.
THE PRODUCTION COMMITTEE HAD CHANGED.


SUMMER OF 2009
WE'RE MAKING AN OAD.
SO FAST!


WE'D LIKE TO MAKE AN OAD EVENTUALLY.
THAT WOULD BE NICE.
A CALL FROM KODANSHA'S PRODUCER, TATEISHI
HELPED WITH THE TV SERIES, AS WELL


THE UP-AND-COMING OF THE UP-AND-COMING ANIMATORS...
RYO-CHIMO-SAN!
YES!
YASUDA-SAN, I REMEMBER YOU EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN WORKING WITH A CERTAIN DIRECTOR.
OOO OH!
THAT WAS...
PRODUCER
ANY-THING?
WE HAVEN'T STARTED ANY-THING!
YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE A PRODUCTION COMMITTEE?
YOU'LL DO IT?!
LET'S DO IT.
NOTH-ING?
NOPE!
I SEE, I SEE.
HAS ANYTHING ELSE BEEN DECIDED?
LIKE A PRO-DUCTION COMPANY?
RYOCHIMO
WE KNEW EACH OTHER FROM A WHILE BACK, SO I OFFERED HIM THE JOB MYSELF.
SO I GAVE THEM MY HOPES (DELU-SIONS).
KUSAFUJI-SAN FOR THE BACK-GROUNDS, UNISON SQUARE GARDEN FOR THE OP, AND SUEMITSU-SAN FOR THE ED...
SO RELI-ABLE!
WE'LL TRY TO MAKE IT WORK.
JUST TELL US WHO YOU'D LIKE.
HA HA HA!
PRODUCER
PRODUCER
HOW DO WE DECIDE THOSE?
NOW THAT THAT'S DONE, LET'S DECIDE ON MORE PEOPLE TO BRING ON.
PRODUCER
AROUND THIS TIME, IT WAS DECIDED THAT TATSU-NOKO PRO WOULD BE IN CHARGE OF PRODUCTION, AND THE PRODUCERS GOT TO WORK.


NOW I'D LIKE TO SHARE A FEW OF MY EXPERIENCES FROM THE MAKING OF THIS DAD.
EVERYTHING JUST FELL INTO PLACE SURPRISINGLY WELL, AND OUR MIRACULOUS TEAM WAS FORMED.
I GUESS IT'S WORTH SHOOTING FOR THE STARS.
THIS IS REALLY SHAPING UP.
ALL OF THEM?!
WE GOT THEM ALL.
I SWEAR TO PUT IN THE POPULAR SCENES AND ONES READERS ARE DYING TO SEE. I PROMISE!
LIKE WHAT?
HOWEVER, JUST COPYING EVERYTHING WOULD BE BORING AND POINTLESS, SO NATURALLY, THINGS WERE ARRANGED SPECIFICALLY FOR THE ANIME.
I SEE.
THEY'RE LEAVING THE PREVIOUS WORK AS-IS AND ARE TAKING A "TRUER TO THE ORIGINAL" APPROACH THIS TIME.
SCRIPT AND STORY-BOARD
THEY'RE ALSO MASTERS OF SHONEN MANGA-ESQUE OVER-EXAGGERATION AND UNDERSTANDING CHARACTERS.
LOOK FORWARD TO IT!
...THE AMAZING STORYBOARDS KOBAYASHI HIROSHI-SAN AND RYOCHIMO-SAN DREW. THEY ARE TRULY MASTERS OF MOVEMENT.
YOU JUST HAVE TO SEE...
I SEE.
NOW, LET'S SEE THESE STORY-BOARDS... WOW, VERY GOOD.


THERE WAS ONLY ONE THING I WANTED TO MAKE CLEAR TO THE TEAM...
SO CUTE!
I'D SAY... NO COMPLAINTS!
CHARACTER DESIGNS
EXACTLY AS I IMAGINED!
I'D SAY...NO CHANGES!
THAT'S LUCKY.
CASTING
IT WAS STILL THAT SIGNATURE "RYOCHIMO ART," THOUGH.
BUT OF COURSE.
AND YET THEY STILL MANAGED TO MAKE THE DESIGNS INCREDIBLY SIMILAR.
IF IT'S GOOD, IT DOESN'T MATTER IF IT MATCHES!
...RATHER THAN HAVING THEM FOCUS ON STICKING TO THE MODELS, I WANTED THEM TO MAKE REALLY SLICK ANIMATION.
WHICH I HAD SAID BEFORE.
I SEE.
THE REASON IS...
AND THAT WAS, "YOU DON'T NEED TO STICK TO THE ORIGINAL MODELS!"
A BUNDLE OF TUNES REPRESENTING "FUN," "SAD," "BATTLE," AND "EVERYDAY" ARE ORDERED, THEN MATCHED TO SCENES.
THE USUAL WAY...
THE MUSIC DURING THE SHOW.
WHAT'S THE SCORE?
THE SCORE
I HOPE YOU'RE AS EXCITED AS I AM TO SEE THESE CHARACTERS FLYING AND BOUNCING AROUND WITH EVEN CUTER AND COOLER DESIGNS
IT'S AMAZING.

...THE FACT THAT IT'S SO DIFFERENT FROM THE LIMITED EDITIONS WE'VE DONE SO FAR MEANT THAT WE DECIDED ON ONLY PRODUCING AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO THE PREORDERS.

THAT ASIDE...

I RECOMMEND PREORDERING IF YOU'D LIKE TO WATCH IT.

OH?

THE TRUTH IS...

UNTIL VOLUME NINE!

I DON'T WANT TO GIVE AWAY TOO MUCH, SO...

9

YAE

BUT THIS TIME I ASKED TO SEE THE STORYBOARDS AND FOR THEM TO MATCH THE SONGS TO THE SCENES PERFECTLY.

WOW, SO PRIVILEGED!

I SWEAR IT'S WORTH PREORDERING! IT'S AMAZING!

THERE'S GOING TO BE OVER 12,000 DRAWINGS USED IN THE ANIMATION!

THERE ARE A LOT OF EXTRAS.

I HATE TO SAY IT, BUT THERE WERE A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO WANTED THE LIMITED EDITION OF VOLUME SIX BUT COULDN'T GET IT.

IF YOU REALLY WANT TO WATCH IT, I CAN'T STRESS HOW IMPORTANT A PREORDER IS.

SO...

IF YOU DON'T PREORDER, YOU PROBABLY WON'T BE ABLE TO OBTAIN A COPY.

BUT IF YOU DO, YOU'RE GUARANTEED ONE.

ONLY MAKING A LIMITED NUMBER

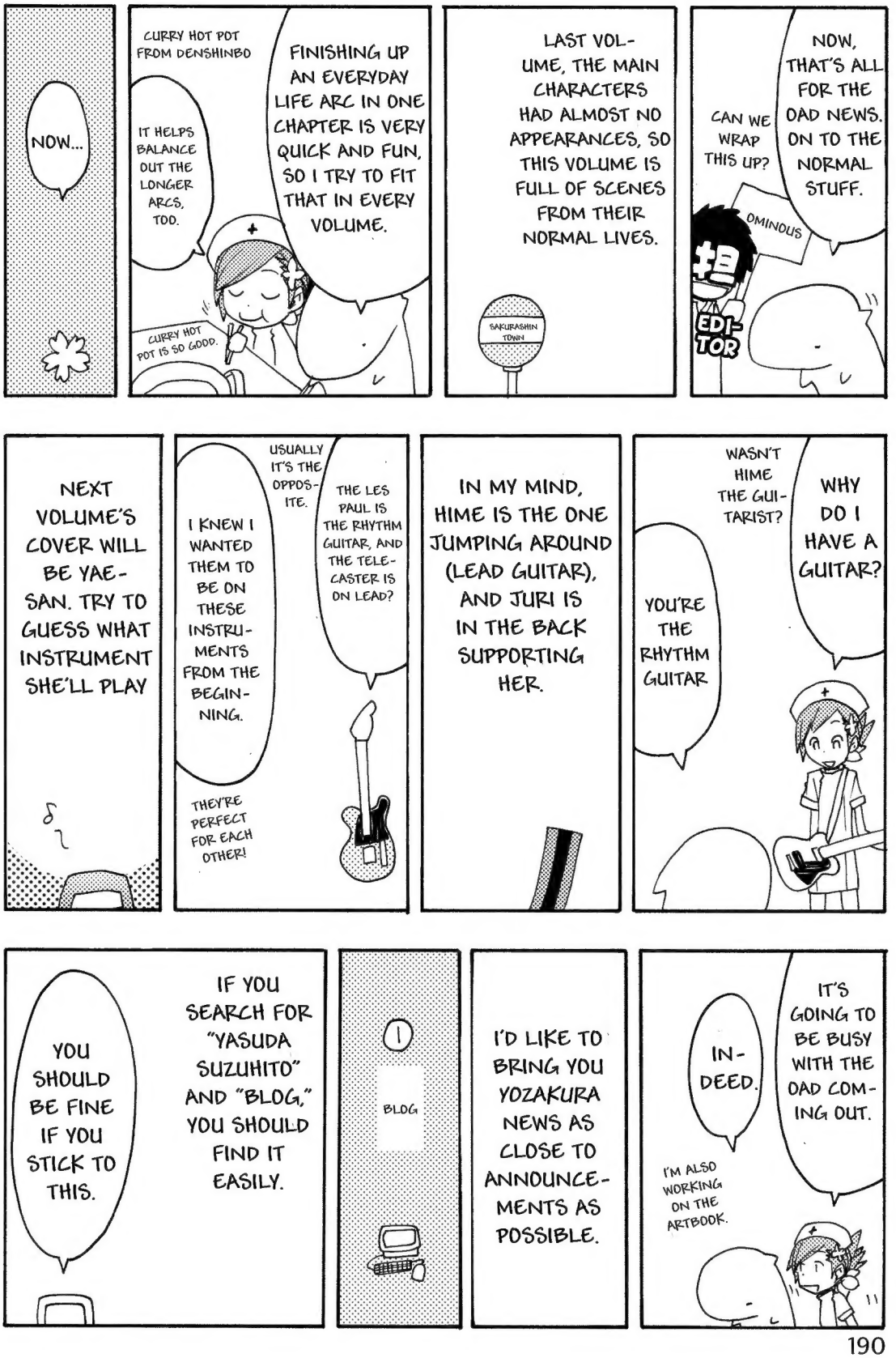
I HOPE TO SEE YOU IN THE NEXT ARC!

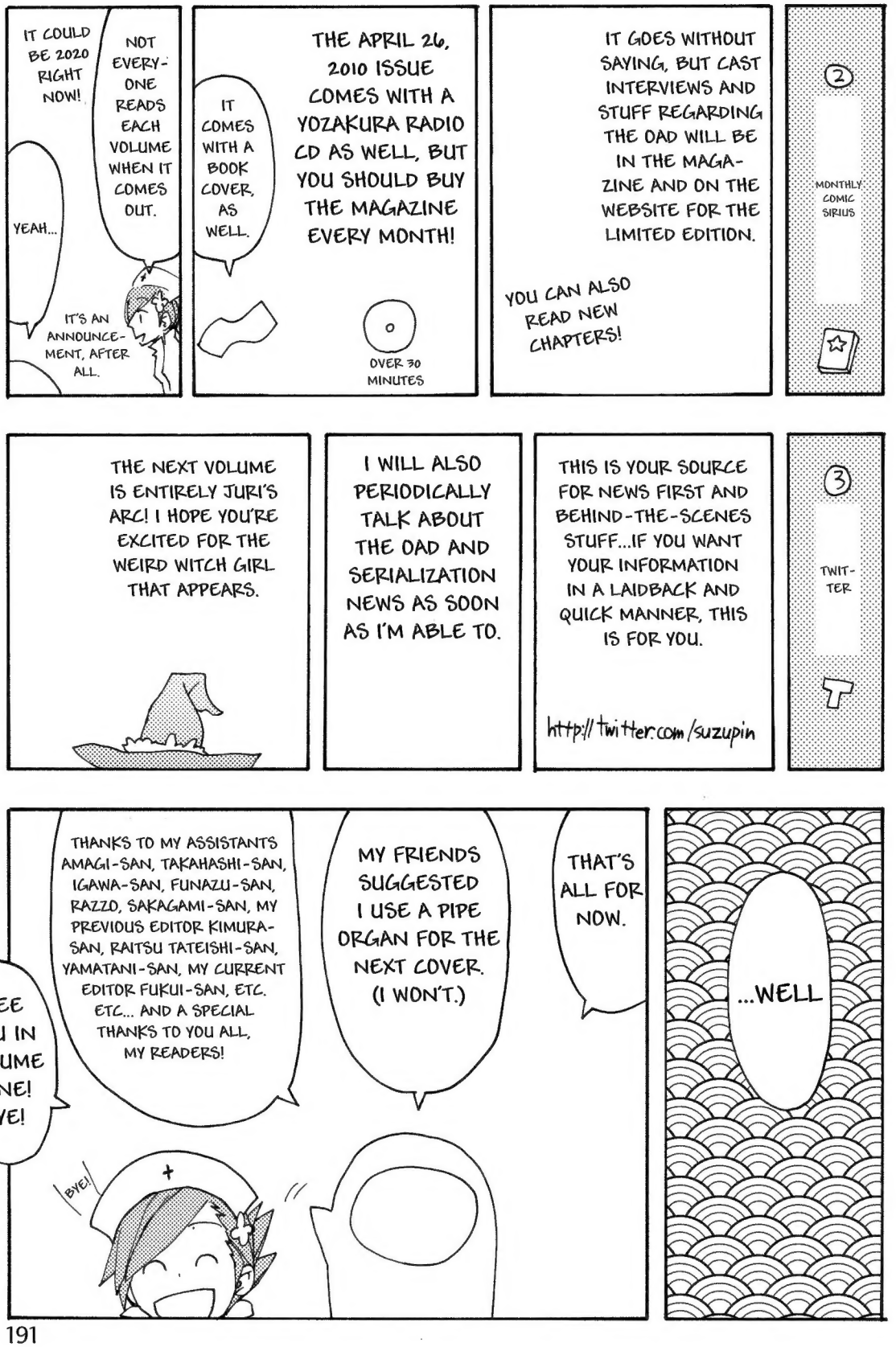
SEE YA!

YOU COULD ALSO CALL IT THE WITCH ARC.

THE NEXT VOLUME WILL BE ENTIRELY JURI'S ARC.

SO...


NOW...
CURRY HOT POT FROM DENSHINBO
IT HELPS BALANCE OUT THE LONGER ARCS, TOO.
FINISHING UP AN EVERYDAY LIFE ARC IN ONE CHAPTER IS VERY QUICK AND FUN, SO I TRY TO FIT THAT IN EVERY VOLUME.
CURRY HOT POT IS SO GOOD.
LAST VOLUME, THE MAIN CHARACTERS HAD ALMOST NO APPEARANCES, SO THIS VOLUME IS FULL OF SCENES FROM THEIR NORMAL LIVES.
SAKURASHIN TOWN
CAN WE WRAP THIS UP?
NOW, THAT'S ALL FOR THE OAD NEWS. ON TO THE NORMAL STUFF.
OMINOUS
EDI-TOR
NEXT VOLUME'S COVER WILL BE YAE-SAN. TRY TO GUESS WHAT INSTRUMENT SHE'LL PLAY
I KNEW I WANTED THEM TO BE ON THESE INSTRUMENTS FROM THE BEGINNING.
USUALLY IT'S THE OPPOSITE.
THE LES PAUL IS THE RHYTHM GUITAR, AND THE TELECASTER IS ON LEAD?
THEY'RE PERFECT FOR EACH OTHER!
IN MY MIND, HIME IS THE ONE JUMPING AROUND (LEAD GUITAR), AND JURI IS IN THE BACK SUPPORTING HER.
WASN'T HIME THE GUITARIST?
WHY DO I HAVE A GUITAR?
YOU'RE THE RHYTHM GUITAR
YOU SHOULD BE FINE IF YOU STICK TO THIS.
IF YOU SEARCH FOR "YASUDA SUZUHITO" AND "BLOG," YOU SHOULD FIND IT EASILY.
1
BLOG
I'D LIKE TO BRING YOU YOZAKURA NEWS AS CLOSE TO ANNOUNCEMENTS AS POSSIBLE.
IN-DEED.
IT'S GOING TO BE BUSY WITH THE OAD COMING OUT.
I'M ALSO WORKING ON THE ARTBOOK.


IT COULD BE 2020 RIGHT NOW!
NOT EVERY-ONE READS EACH VOLUME WHEN IT COMES OUT.
YEAH...
IT'S AN ANNOUNCE-MENT, AFTER ALL.
IT COMES WITH A BOOK COVER, AS WELL.
THE APRIL 26, 2010 ISSUE COMES WITH A YOZAKURA RADIO CD AS WELL, BUT YOU SHOULD BUY THE MAGAZINE EVERY MONTH!
OVER 30 MINUTES
IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING, BUT CAST INTERVIEWS AND STUFF REGARDING THE OAD WILL BE IN THE MAGA-ZINE AND ON THE WEBSITE FOR THE LIMITED EDITION.
YOU CAN ALSO READ NEW CHAPTERS!
2
MONTHLY COMIC SIRIUS
THE NEXT VOLUME IS ENTIRELY JURI'S ARC! I HOPE YOU'RE EXCITED FOR THE WEIRD WITCH GIRL THAT APPEARS.
I WILL ALSO PERIODICALLY TALK ABOUT THE OAD AND SERIALIZATION NEWS AS SOON AS I'M ABLE TO.
THIS IS YOUR SOURCE FOR NEWS FIRST AND BEHIND-THE-SCENES STUFF...IF YOU WANT YOUR INFORMATION IN A LAIDBACK AND QUICK MANNER, THIS IS FOR YOU.
http://twitter.com/suzupin
3
TWIT-TER
THANKS TO MY ASSISTANTS AMAGI-SAN, TAKAHASHI-SAN, IGAWA-SAN, FUNAZU-SAN, RAZZD, SAKAGAMI-SAN, MY PREVIOUS EDITOR KIMURA-SAN, RAITSU TATEISHI-SAN, YAMATANI-SAN, MY CURRENT EDITOR FUKUI-SAN, ETC. ETC... AND A SPECIAL THANKS TO YOU ALL, MY READERS!
MY FRIENDS SUGGESTED I USE A PIPE ORGAN FOR THE NEXT COVER. (I WON'T.)
THAT'S ALL FOR NOW.
SEE YOU IN VOLUME NINE! BYE!
BYE!
...WELL

Yozakura Quartet 8

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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